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# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS

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## Dancing Together



Above: Young ladies took to the dance floor at Oak Ridge Country Club during the Feb. 27 Father-Daughter Dance sponsored by the Agawam Parks and Recreation Department. More photos, page 10.

Left: Mike Malanson poses with his daughter Payton at the Father-Daughter Dance last week. PHOTOS BY ADRIANNE JOHNSON

### FEEDING HILLS

## Crossroad work starts this month

*MassDOT hopes widening will be done in early Aug.*

By Peter Spotts  
[pspotts@turley.com](mailto:pspotts@turley.com)

Drivers in one of the town's busiest intersections should get ready for more delays starting this month — but, officials hope, fewer delays starting this fall.

The long-awaited re-engineering and reconstruction of Feeding Hills Center, the crossroad where North Westfield, South Westfield, Southwick and Springfield streets meet, is scheduled to begin in mid- to late March, said Town Engineer Michelle Chase. If all goes according to plan, the intersection work will be wrapped up the first week of August, well before the start of classes at nearby Granger School.

"That's the plan right now, but that could change, particularly if there's issues," Chase said. "We're working closely with MassDOT and Caracas Construction to make sure things are moving forward smoothly. You'll see a lot of big changes up there this year."

The work to be done includes new traffic signals, pedestrian crossings, additional granite curbing and sidewalks, and a full mill and overlay resurfacing of the street.

The biggest change for drivers will be new lanes added to South Westfield, Southwick and Springfield streets as they approach the intersection. From the west, on Southwick Street, there will be three lanes, one each for left-turning, through and right-turning traffic. This should eliminate backups in the current left lane, where through traffic bound for Springfield Street often has to wait for cars turning onto North Westfield Street, and some impatient drivers illegally swerve into the right-turn-only lane to get around. From the east, Spring-

### SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## Supt. search includes a public survey

By Mike Lydick  
[aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com)

When the School Committee went through a search process three years ago to find a new superintendent of schools, it had been 20 since the district had to go through an extensive search process to find a new school chief. Now, just three years after the search that resulted in hiring Steve Lemanski as the successor for then-Superintendent William Sapelli, the committee is about to embark on a new search after Lemanski announced he will retire in June.

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### PRIMARY ELECTION

## Town follows state in backing Biden

*Mass. local politicians disappoint on Democrat, GOP primary ballots*

By Michael Ballway  
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Primary voters in Agawam, as in most of Massachusetts, largely ignored two former Massachusetts governors and, more prominently, the state's sitting senior senator, to deliver primary election wins this week to former Vice President Joseph Biden, Democrat, and incumbent President Donald Trump, Republican.

Roughly a quarter of registered voters in Agawam cast ballots in the March 3 election, which saw Biden capture 1,497 votes locally, or 37.7 percent of the vote. His nearest competition — in Agawam, in Massachusetts, and in most of the states that voted on



Voters mark their ballots in the presidential primary election Tuesday evening at the Precinct 1 polling station at Robinson Park School. PHOTO BY MICHAEL BALLWAY

"Super Tuesday" — was Vermont U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, who took 1,113 votes, or 28 percent, in Agawam.

The New York Times reported on Wednesday morning that Biden had 33.1 percent of the statewide vote, earning 32 dele-

gates for the Democratic National Convention this summer, with Sanders farther behind at 26.4 percent, and 27 delegates.

U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Cambridge, ran a distant fourth

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## Catholic club rehearsing their talents

Rehearsals for the Annual Entertainment of the Catholic Women's Club of Agawam will start Thursday, March 5.

They will continue through March and April, with the exception of Holy Week, until the night of the show on Monday, April 20. Rehearsals are in the gymnasium of the St. John the Evangelist Parish Center in Agawam, and begin at 7 p.m.

Any club member with a talent — sing, dance, tell jokes or participate in skits — is encouraged to join the cast for this fun event.

## NOTICE

**ERRORS:** Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

## Q &amp; AGAWAM

## Phelps' new leader loves 'warmth, excitement' of K-4

By Mike Lydick  
aan@turley.com

**K**aren Albano was appointed interim principal at the Phelps School this January. She will serve in this position until the end of the school year.

Although she is currently serving as a principal, her passion is teaching children in a classroom. She loves helping kids learn skills that will help become thriving adults and citizens.

Albano began her teaching career in Agawam in 2007 as a social studies teacher after student teaching at AHS. In September 2018, she became one of the district's first lead teachers at the elementary level, working alongside and assisting the school principal.

Also, in 2018 Albano was one of five teachers in the district to be honored with the annual Excellence in Teaching Award that recognizes exceptional teaching skills.

**Q. When did you decide to become a teacher?**

A: As a senior in high school, I knew I wanted to be a teacher. I was — and still am — passionate about the importance of education and always enjoyed working with children. I was a full-time nanny throughout college and served as a volunteer tutor in the Lawrence public schools to gain more experience in the field. Throughout my tutoring experience and collegiate education, I was inspired by a number of educators who clearly loved their work and recognized the importance of helping children develop into thriving adults and citizens.

**Q. What do you like about working in the Agawam schools?**

A: I feel immense gratitude that I've had the opportunity to work in the Agawam public schools for the past 13 years. I've always felt supported in my work as an educator and



**Karen Albano**

**What you should know about her:** She lived in Agawam for 16 years and has taught in the district for 13 years. She grew up in Longmeadow, but moved to Agawam after she married her husband, who was born and raised in Agawam.

**What she loves about living in Agawam:** "I love that it's the type of community where I feel proud to work and live, and know that my son is receiving an excellent education. In Agawam, relationships matter and people chose to settle down here for the long term. My family and I enjoy seeing friends, both new and old, at baseball games and around town at dinner or grocery shopping. People are quick to offer a smile and make conversation. In a time where it can be easy to feel disconnected, those things matter."

administrator and have regularly been encouraged to learn and grow. I'm glad to work in an environment where excellence is nurtured from within.

**Q. Why did you want to teach in Agawam?**

A: In 2007, I was a student teacher at Agawam High School and immediately felt connected to the district. I knew that the Agawam community valued education and that teachers and administrators were ahead of the curve. Before coming to Phelps, I was a lead teacher at Granger and Robinson Park elementary schools. Previously, I taught social studies at the junior high school.

**Q. Who are your role models in Agawam?**

A: Over the past two years, as a lead teacher, I was lucky to work alongside exceptional principals, Cheryl Salomao at Granger, and Nicholas Bernier at RPS. As interim principal at Phelps, I continue to work in close collaboration with Cheryl and Nick, as well as Shelley Russell, principal at Clark Elementary School. I'm profoundly grateful for their support and team approach to providing the best educational experience to students throughout the district. Along with the rest of the administra-

tive team at Agawam, they are my role models.

**Q. How has your lead teacher experience prepared you to for your role as interim principal?**

A: Beyond the obvious benefits of learning from veteran administrators in the district and building relationships with two school communities as a lead teacher, I developed a range of skills and perspectives related to enacting positive change and support on a school-wide level. In addition, working closely with administrators as a lead teacher offered me the chance to learn more about the daily responsibilities of school leaders. Being a lead teacher created a forum for me to learn how to expand my sphere of support and influence on a larger scale.

**Q. What are some of the biggest challenges you've dealt with since becoming interim principal?**

A: Honestly, one of the biggest challenges I experienced was the sadness that went along with leaving my former school. While I was immensely excited about working with the staff and students at Phelps, I also felt disappointed that I would not finish the school year with the RPS community.

**Q. What are your personal**

**and professional goals and what would you see yourself doing in five or 10 years?**

A: Currently I'm completing my doctorate at Northeastern University and one of my goals is to complete my dissertation in the next six months. Since last June, I've worked on a case study research project related to professional development for educators. In five or 10 years, I hope my skills, experience, and education will provide a solid foundation to effect change on an even wider scale at the district level.

**Q. After teaching AJHS students for about 10 years, what was it like to start working with elementary students?**

A: Truth be told, I had some nerves when I moved from AJHS to the elementary level. Fortunately, I was instantly taken by the incredible warmth of the teachers and the infectious excitement for learning among our district's youngest students. I learned quickly that the same basic skills of communication and unconditional support were effective across a range of ages.

**Q. What advice can you give parents who may be apprehensive about their children moving to a different elementary school because of redistricting, or to parents of Early Childhood Center preschoolers whose children will be moving to the elementary schools in September 2021?**

A: As both an educator and the parent of an elementary-age child myself, I know the importance of supporting children as they face change. From my experience, I believe that modeling the skills of flexibility and resilience helps students learn to feel confident and capable in any situation — especially when faced with change. As I enter some of these conversations in my own home over the coming months, I do so with positivity and

honesty. I know that each elementary school will offer preschoolers from the ECC as well as kindergarten through grade 4 students exemplary educational experiences alongside warm and welcoming teachers and staff.

**Q. What are some of your proudest moments as an educator in Agawam?**

A: My proudest moments have been when I see former students or hear about them reaching their goals and finding happiness in their lives. It takes a community of support to help our students and I feel proud to be part of that community.

**Q. Is your career as an educator your "dream job"?**

A: I genuinely consider working as an educator my "dream job." I've chosen to take on various opportunities to differentiate my experiences as an educator, so I feel satisfied that my work is varied enough to keep me engaged. From sitting on various committees to serving on site visit teams for teacher preparation programs throughout the country, I've found ways to explore my other areas of interest in the field.

**Q. What are some of your other passions besides teaching and what are some of your interests outside of school?**

A: My greatest passion outside of teaching is traveling with my family. Before my son was born, I traveled quite extensively. Now that he's a little bit older, I hope to take him to some of the wonderful places in the world I've had the chance to see. There is great value in learning about other cultures and gaining a global perspective.

*Whom should we interview next? Who has an interesting job, hobby, or story to tell in Agawam and Feeding Hills? Suggest a "Q & Agawam" subject by emailing aan@turley.com.*

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## Bag sale 2 days next week at 1st Baptist Trading Post

The Trading Post of the First Baptist Church of Agawam, 760 Main St., Agawam, will hold a bag sale two days next week.

Patrons may fill a bag

with all items that fit for \$5 per bag during the sale. Sale times are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 14.

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# Comedy show to benefit Lions mission to fight youth hunger

Tickets are on sale now for the Agawam Lions Club's 16th annual Comedy Show, which takes place this Saturday.

This year's show will feature comedians Greg Boggis, Rob Steen, Tom Hayes and Pat Napoli. Concession food will be available for purchase and a cash bar will be open and ready to serve. In keeping with tradition, a large selection of raffle prizes as well as the popular 50-50 raffle will be offered.

Doors open at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 7, at Oak Ridge Country Club, 850 S. Westfield St., Feeding Hills. The show starts at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 at [www.agawamlions.org](http://www.agawamlions.org) or at the door. For group sales or will-call tickets, call Richard at 413-335-5434.

Proceeds from this year's Comedy Show will support the newly established Agawam Lions Foundation Inc. Children's Services Fund. This fund will provide assistance to children in the community, their families and caregivers, as well as the schools and support staff that are entrusted with their well-being. The Agawam Lions Foundation Inc. Children's Services Fund is committed to addressing issues such as hunger, health and well-being matters, basic supplies for home and school, among other things.

For more information on Lions Club events and fundraising efforts, follow the Agawam Lions Club on Facebook.com or visit [www.agawamlions.org](http://www.agawamlions.org).

# Free family events scheduled this month

The Agawam Family and Community Program has announced the following events this month. For all event registrations and questions, email Erin Cosgrove at [ecosgrove@agawamed.org](mailto:ecosgrove@agawamed.org) or call 413-821-0597.

**Learn, Play and Grow:** 6-7 p.m. Thursday, March 5, and 9:30-10:30 a.m. Friday, March 6, in the lower level at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., Agawam. Children and their caregivers are invited to get out of the house and complete crafts and activities. This month's theme is counting and measuring. Advance registration is required.

**Watch Me Grow:** 9:30-10:30 a.m. every Tuesday, in the lower level at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., Agawam. This weekly drop-in program for children from birth to age 5 (with parent or caretaker) helps them meet and celebrate their developmental milestones as described in the Ages and Stages Questionnaire. Topics follow a five-week rotation, with activities focusing on the ASQ standards of communication, gross motor, fine motor, problem-solving and personal social skills.

**Weekly Playgroup:** 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. every Thursday, in the lower level at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., Agawam. Open to families with children birth to 5 years old, the drop-in playgroup has two age-appropriate rooms for children and a parent or caregiver to learn, explore and build friendships.

**Coffee and Conversation:** 9:30-10:30 a.m. Friday, March 13, in the lower level at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., Agawam. All parents, grandparents and caregivers can bring a topic to discuss, share their parenting experiences or simply enjoy adult conversation. Coffee and tea will be served. Free childcare is provided.

**Tiger Tots Tae Kwon Do:** 4-4:45 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, at Family Martial Arts Academy, 35 Southwick St., Feeding Hills. Children ages 3-5, with caregivers, will learn how martial arts can develop motor skills, attention, confidence and social skills while having fun. All attendees are expected to participate. Advance registration is required.

**Shake, Shimmy and Dance:** 9:30-10:30 a.m. Friday, March 20, at LHQ Danceforce, 159 Main St., Agawam. Parents and caretakers will participate with their children (ages 12 months to 5 years) in exploring rhythm, beats, songs and movement. Advance registration is required.

Programs are not held if school is closed that day. If Agawam schools announce a two-hour delay, all morning programs are canceled.

**Multicultural Festival:** 4-7 p.m. Saturday, March 28, at the Agawam High School cafeteria, 760 Cooper St., Agawam. Celebrate the town's diversity with food, music, dancing, demonstrations, arts and crafts, storytime and more. Attendees will learn about traditions from around the globe from neighbors in Agawam.

**Parent Café:** 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 1, in the Community Room at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., Agawam. Kristin Allegro, board-certified behavior analyst with Agawam public schools, will discuss common parenting concerns and what materials are best to promote non-electronics-based play, how to set up an optimal play environment for children of all ages, and how to promote "independent play" without electronics for children of different ages.

# Disability Commission seeks volunteers

Agawam's Disability Commission is looking for new volunteer members and ideas on how to serve the town's residents with disabilities.

The commission was established to promote the inclusion and integration of persons with disabilities in the activities, services and employment opportunities in Agawam. This is important, as according to the 2010 U.S. Census, approximately a quarter of Agawam residents are living with physical, cognitive, visual, auditory or invisible disabilities.

Meeting monthly, the Disability Commission advises and works with the town officials, residents, businesses, and the community to ensure compliance with federal and state disability laws.

The commission is not funded by the town, but it does receive funds from parking violations, which are used for small business grants, scholarships and providing Community Access Monitor training for members, town department employees and Agawam businesses. Donations are also accepted; they may be sent to Agawam Disability Commission, care of Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam, MA 01001.

Disability Commission meetings are held at 4 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the Senior Center. The next meeting is March 11. The commission welcomes visitors and potential members.

The commission can be contacted at 413-821-0604.

# Town nurse gives tips on ways to fight, prepare for coronavirus

The risk of coronavirus in Massachusetts remains low, but the Agawam Health Department is advising local residents to take precautions to protect them from the virus, as well as from more familiar diseases such as colds and influenza.

Sherry Petrucci, the town's public health nurse, said last week that all residents should:

- Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds, before and after eating, toileting, coughing or sneezing, or touching potentially contaminated surfaces.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and dispose of it in a trash receptacle.
- Stay home when feeling sick.
- Refrain from touching or shaking hands.
- Maintain at least a 6-foot distance from anyone appearing to be sick.

"Preparation is key," Petrucci said. "Don't wait till you are advised to self-isolate or quarantine. Get your households prepared now."

Currently, there is no vaccine or antiviral medication available for the 2019 coronavirus. Should an outbreak occur, public transportation, churches, schools and malls may be required to shut down. Employers may be asked to have workers work from home to help combat the spread of disease.

Households can prepare for a potential public health emergency by taking several steps:

- Have at least a 14-day supply of food and medication on hand.
- Make sure to have a thermometer to take body temperature twice daily, morning and night.
- Keep a supply of Kleenex, toilet paper and fever-reducing medication available.
- Purchase disinfectant cleaners or wipes, to clean potentially contaminated surfaces such as doorknobs, phones, computer keyboards, countertops, bathrooms sinks and faucets, and bedside tables.
- Don't share eating or drinking utensils and cups.
- Practice social distancing by avoiding crowded spaces when necessary.

Worries about coronavirus began in December, when Chinese scientists began investigating what was causing a recent outbreak of pneumonia cases in the city of Wuhan, China. They identified a previously unknown coronavirus, initially designated 2019nCoV disease, and later renamed COVID-19.

Coronaviruses are respiratory viruses and are generally spread through respiratory secretions (droplets from coughs and sneezes) of an infected person to another person. Symptoms of the 2019 coronavirus include fever, cough and shortness of breath, and, in severe cases, pneumonia (fluid in the lungs). Information about how this novel coronavirus spreads is still limited.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Massachusetts Department of Public Health, are in continual communication with local boards of health with the latest information.

# Catholic Women to meet next Monday

Diane Jacobs, manager of Dress for Success, will be the speaker at the March 9 meeting of the Catholic Women's Club of Agawam.

The evening will begin in the Father Joyce Room of the St. John the Evangelist Parish Center, 833 Main St., Agawam, with refreshments at 6:30. The club's monthly business meeting will begin at 7, after which Jacobs will talk about this important program. Members are invited to bring gently used women's clothing, shoes and pocketbooks (no swimwear or undergarments) the night of the meeting to donate to this worthy project. Monetary donations will also be accepted.

Scholarship forms will be available at this meeting. Applicants must be a graduating senior, continuing their education, and a child or grandchild of a club member.

All Catholic women residing in Agawam or member of an Agawam parish are welcome to attend this meeting.

# Lions serve corned beef next Weds.

The Agawam Lions Club will host its annual corned beef and cabbage dinner Wednesday, March 11, at Agawam High School, 760 Cooper St., Agawam.

Dine-in and take-out meals will be available 5-7 p.m. Tickets are \$13 for adults, \$5 for children, and may be purchased at the door.

This traditional St. Patrick's Day meal includes corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, bread and butter, beverage and a dessert. Kids' meals will consist of macaroni and cheese, a hot dog, chips, drink and dessert.

A local Brownie troop will be on hand to sell Girl Scout cookies. Boxes of cookies may also be purchased and donated to the Lions Club's Vacation Vittles Hunger Relief Program.

For more information on Lions Club fundraisers and upcoming events, follow the Agawam Lions Club on Facebook.com or visit [www.agawamlions.org](http://www.agawamlions.org).

# Several public documents now online

In an effort to provide greater transparency in local government, and convenient access to web-based resources, the town of Agawam is offering a growing repository of public documents online.

Through a Community Compact grant from the state of Massachusetts, Agawam's town government has scanned several boxes of planning and community development site plans and Conservation Commission documents. These documents are now available at [agawam.ma.us](http://agawam.ma.us) (click on "Public Document Portal" at the right). Documents offered online can be searched by keyword.

In the coming months, the town plans to add more documents to this online repository.


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# Eversource Energy to acquire Columbia Gas from NiSource

Eversource Energy announced last week that it will purchase the Massachusetts natural gas assets of Columbia Gas for \$1.1 billion from NiSource.

The acquisition will consolidate ownership of the two energy utilities serving Agawam, as Eversource was formed several years ago from a merger of companies that included the former Western Massachusetts Electric Co. into what is now the largest energy company in New England.

Columbia Gas serves 330,000 natural gas customers in more than 60 communities in Massachusetts, including Agawam. Eversource has 300,000 natural gas customers and 1.5 million electric customers in 51 communities across the state, including Agawam.

“Eversource is uniquely positioned to leverage the strengths of our current and future workforce, facilities, gas supply resources and business processes to achieve greater operational efficiency, while continuing to deliver on our unwavering commitment to safety and superior service for our customers,” said Eversource Chairman, President and CEO Jim Judge. “As the No. 1 rated energy company in the U.S. by Newsweek and the No. 1 ranked utility according to Forbes and JUST Capital for corporate social responsibility, we are focused on providing safe and reliable service to our customers while at the same time nurturing a diverse and engaged workplace for employees and working to protect the environment. We look forward to bringing that commitment to all of our new customers

and employees.”

Under the asset purchase agreement, liabilities related to the September 2018 gas distribution incidents in the Merrimack Valley will remain the responsibility of Columbia Gas’ current parent company, NiSource.

According to Eversource, the benefits of the acquisition for current Columbia Gas customers include:

- Ownership by a larger, locally focused company with expertise and resources to deliver safe and reliable energy
- Improved safety and reliability through investments in infrastructure
- Locally based gas dispatch and emergency response in Massachusetts
- Eversource’s best-in-the-nation energy efficiency programs
- Participation in Eversource clean energy initiatives
- Potential reduced gas supply costs and increased reliability through portfolio optimization and management
- A commitment to maintain appropriate staffing levels that enable safe and reliable operations
- Strong financial profile with access to Eversource’s top-tier credit ratings that helps to lower financing costs for customers

The transaction will require approval from the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities and the U.S. Justice Department. The companies expect to close the transaction by the end of the third quarter of 2020.

# Kindergarten info night March 26

A parent information night about 2020-21 kindergarten will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 26, at Robinson Park School, 65 Begley St., Agawam.

Parents of all children entering kindergarten in September 2020 are invited to attend. The program is offered to share information with parents about enrolling their child, screening their child, and preparing them and their child for the transition to elementary school.

Children must be 5 years old by Sept. 1, 2020, to be eligible to attend kindergarten in Agawam. Though the information night

is being held at Robinson Park School, it is open to parents of prospective kindergartners at any of the town’s elementary schools, including Clark, Granger and Phelps schools.

Presenters will answer questions about the daily routine, health-related issues, transportation, PTOs, before- and after-school child care and more. This is an event for parents; childcare will not be offered.

For more information, contact Robin Fernandes, director of early childhood, at 413-821-0597.

# Garden Club to hear about pruning

The Agawam Garden Club will have its first meeting of the 2020 season at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, at the Agawam Senior Center.

After a brief business meeting, Dan Ziomek of the Hadley Garden Center will speak on the importance, benefits and methods of pruning. Ziomek has been with the Hadley Garden Center for 30 years and earned his bachelor’s degree in plant and soil science from UMass-Amherst. Door prizes and light refreshments will be provided by club members.

The purpose of the club is to bring together those interested in expanding and sharing their horticultural knowledge and experience in a casual setting. It promotes interest in gardening, floral and landscape design, and conservation. All meetings are open to the public, including residents of any town.

Members may pay their \$15 annual dues at this meeting. The Senior Center is at 954 Main St., Agawam.

# K of C to raffle seats at Red Sox game

The Agawam Knights of Columbus will raffle two tickets to a Boston Red Sox game in June.

Only 100 raffle tickets will be sold, at \$10 per ticket. Raffle tickets can be purchased from Bill Tessicini at 413-205-7082, and at the fish dinners being held 5-7 p.m. every Friday through April 3 at Sacred Heart Parish

Center, 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills.

The raffle prize is two seats at the Red Sox game against the St. Louis Cardinals at 1:05 p.m. Sunday, June 28 — seats 13 and 14 in the upper deck front row of Section 16 in Fenway Park’s left field pavilion.

The raffle winner will be drawn Sunday, June 14. The winner need not be present.

# Girl Scout seeking emergency supplies for AHS lockdown kits

Serena Croteau, a junior at Agawam High School, is looking for help to make sure every classroom is equipped to handle a safety emergency.

She is looking for donations this month for Safety Stashes, buckets filled with emergency supplies. Equipping each of the about 100 classrooms at AHS with a Safety Stash is a service project for Croteau as she pursues her Gold Award, the highest honor in Girl Scouting. A Girl Scout since first grade, she is now a Cadette scout with Troop 20560 in Agawam.

Croteau said she had the idea for her project after the school went through a mock training drill, part of the ALICE — alert, lockdown, inform, counter and evacuate — program. She said she realized that when classrooms shut their doors to keep out an intruder, they also cut off their own access to certain items they might need to handle emergencies.

The Safety Stash program is accepting donations through March 24, with donation boxes in both the Agawam Senior Center and the Agawam Public Library. Items sought include new, unopened:

- boxes of latex-free gloves

- rubber door stoppers
- rolls of duct tape
- Kleenex packets
- bug spray
- flashlights with batteries
- whistles with a lanyard
- bottles of water
- packages of glow sticks

Croteau hopes to finish the project by the end of March. She will work with AHS student clubs to pack and distribute the Safety Stash buckets. The project needs the community’s help to donate items, however.

She thanked her mentor for the project, English teacher Sable Johnson, the head of the ALICE program at the high school. Croteau is also a member of the Helping Hands community service club at the high school, and a class officer.

“School safety is very important, and any way to help schools in our town to become safer creates a pathway for other towns and cities to follow in our footsteps,” Croteau said. “As a strong community, we are more than capable of making this happen!”

For more information, Croteau can be reached at serenacroteau03@gmail.com.



Commuters on Springfield Street at Feeding Hills Center wait for a green light on Tuesday. The busy intersection will be widened and re-engineered this summer. PHOTO BY MICHAEL BALLWAY

## CROSSROAD ■ from page 1

field Street will also expand from two to three lanes.

Cars coming from the south — including traffic from the Route 57 expressway — will now have two left-turn lanes for cars continuing to follow Route 57 toward Southwick. One other lane will handle both through (North Westfield Street) and right-turning (Springfield Street) traffic.

With two lanes turning left from South Westfield Street, the westbound side of Southwick Street will be widened to accommodate two lanes of traffic for the first couple hundred feet. The street with narrow to one lane westbound as it passes the entrance to the Crossroads shopping plaza.

Road work will extend 425 feet from the intersection along North Westfield Street, 1,000 feet along South Westfield Street, 600 feet west along Southwick Street, and along Springfield Street almost as far as the Agawam Junior High School driveway.

Although the roadwork will touch every corner of the crossroad, Chase said the Massachusetts Department of Transportation is not planning a detour.

“It’s challenging out there because any detouring will require rerouting a significant amount of traffic through residential neighborhood,” Chase said, referring to the Hendon-Pheasant Hill area. “Most likely, it’ll be something similar to what they’re doing with the bridge project.”

Chase said that some of the more extensive work, such as the resurfacing of the road, may end up being done at night when there are fewer cars in the intersection.

She said the state may also try to do work on half the roadway at a time while keeping one or two narrow lanes open on each street, using police officers to direct traffic.

“Overall, the road widths are pretty wide out there, so hopefully they can do the work in phases and keep two-way traffic going the majority of the time,” she said. “We’re working with MassDOT right now on that. They’re looking into different times of day to schedule some of the work.”

The \$2.7 million project is being funded by MassDOT, with Agawam taxpayers paying for land takings, and some of the work in the Granger School parking lot.

Work on the Granger parking lot was done last year as part of the first project phase. South Westfield Street and Springfield Street received additional sidewalk and granite curbing, with driveway and parking lot improvements for the school conducted to generate more queue space for school pick-ups and drop-offs.

“The state was nice enough to work with us to try and alleviate the traffic backup for the pickup and drop off process for the school, because that was backing up traffic at the intersection,” Chase said.

Chase added that in addition to the Feeding Hills Center work, a second project will start this spring on South Westfield Street and Pine Street. A curve between the Route 57 expressway and the intersection of South Westfield and Pine streets is going to be realigned. Chase said they’re going to lower the road, adjust the curb, add new sidewalks, bike lanes, and flashing signals for crosswalks. That project is expected to be completed during the 2021 construction season.



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# Cultural Council seeks volunteers, event ideas

The Agawam Cultural Council will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., Agawam. The meeting is open to the public. There is no cost to join or serve.

The Agawam Cultural Council is looking for people who want to have fun and get involved in creating new, interesting events. Anyone with an interest in providing diverse cultural events for the town should consider joining the Cultural Council. This

all-volunteer organization, appointed by the mayor and funded, in part, by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, is looking for new members.

The Cultural Council is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities. For more information, visit [www.agawamcc.org](http://www.agawamcc.org).

# Registration is open for boat safety class in April

The state Environmental Police will host Boat Massachusetts, a state and nationally approved boating course, next month at Granger School.

The free 10-12-hour course reviews the equipment and operating guidelines needed to enjoy boating in a safe and responsible way. It is open to adults and to youths who are 12 years old by April 13, 2020. Graduates aged 12-15 will be issued the safety certificate required by state law for them to operate a motorboat without adult

supervision. Youths 16-17 will be issued a certificate to operate personal watercraft, such as a Jet-Ski.

Participants must attend all three sessions, 5-9 p.m. Monday, April 6, Wednesday, April 8, and Monday, April 13. Classes will be held in the cafeteria at Granger School, 31 S. Westfield St., Feeding Hills. Registration is free, but limited to 30 students. To register, visit [www.mass.gov/forms/mep-boating-safety-course-online-enrollment-form](http://www.mass.gov/forms/mep-boating-safety-course-online-enrollment-form). The course ID is 4325.

# Grocery bag buys support NAMI-WM

NAMI-Western Massachusetts has been selected to be a part of the Stop & Shop Community Bag Program, which is designed to make it easy for customers to contribute to their local community while supporting the environment.

This month, each time a reusable Community Bag

is purchased at the Feeding Hills Stop & Shop, at 1282 Springfield St., \$1 will be donated to NAMI-Western Massachusetts, unless otherwise directed by the customer through the Giving Tag.

The Western Massachusetts chapter of the National Alliance on Mental

Illness is headquartered on Springfield Street in Agawam. The organization serves as a resource center and advocate for those with mental health issues, and their families and friends.

For more information, visit [stopandshop.bags4mycause.com](http://stopandshop.bags4mycause.com) or [namiwm.org](http://namiwm.org).

# Artisans to hear from basket weaver

Marsha Leavitt, basket weaver, will demonstrate her art to the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans on March 11 at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., Agawam. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to this free demonstration.

She belongs to the Northeast Basketmakers Guild, and has three events each year.

For further information, contact Ceil Rossi at 413-207-1247 or [tocarefree2@hotmail.com](mailto:tocarefree2@hotmail.com).



Fay Borgatti drops off new underwear for the Springfield Rescue Mission last month at Agawam Congregational Church.

SUBMITTED PHOTO BY ROBERTA PAGE

# Church collects clothes to aid Rescue Mission

The Missionary Committee of Agawam Congregational Church coordinated its annual "Undies Sundays" collections during the month of February.

Brand-new underwear, socks and other items were collected throughout February and brought to the

Springfield Rescue Mission for distribution.

"It's an important mission for me, personally," explained Fay Borgatti of Feeding Hills. "I volunteered at the mission for years during the summers. I saw that the items, really, are needed and used."

## POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 383 calls for service Feb. 24 through March 1, and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

### Monday, Feb. 24

Gary Jon Webster, 54, of 53 Royal St., Agawam, was arrested at 6:40 p.m. on Royal Street on two warrants.

### Thursday, Feb. 27

Dominic P. Sullivan, 30, of 19 Arcadia Blvd., Springfield, was arrested at 4:36 p.m. on Springfield Street and charged with possession of a class D drug with intent to distribute; carrying a dangerous weapon, subsequent offense; driving with a licensed revoked as a habitual traffic offender; driving with an open container of alcohol; and

sending or receiving an electronic message while driving.

### Saturday, Feb. 28

Paul Lewis Boyd, 27, of 91 Wilbraham Ave., Springfield, was arrested at 2:34 a.m. on Springfield Street and charged with driving under the influence of liquor, driving with an open container of alcohol, negligent driving, failing to stop or yield, and a vehicle lights violation.

## PRIMARY ■ from page 1

place with 511 votes in Agawam, or 12.9 percent, trailing former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's 588 votes, or 14.8 percent. In the statewide vote, however, Warren finished much closer to Sanders, with 21.4 percent of the vote, and took 17 delegates. Bloomberg had 11.6 percent of the Massachusetts vote and no delegates.

Biden was the big winner in most of the states that voted on Super Tuesday, taking primary victories across the South and in the progressive bastions of Massachusetts and Minnesota, while Sanders won Colorado, Vermont and Utah, and was leading California, with Maine still reported as a toss-up on Wednesday morning.

Agawam's support for Biden placed it line with almost all of Hampden County and most of Eastern Massachusetts, including both Boston and Springfield. The northern Pioneer Valley, starting at Holyoke, went largely for Sanders. A few individual cities stood out as pockets of support for the more progressive candidates: Lawrence, Lowell, Worcester and a few inner suburbs north of Boston for Sanders; Northampton, Brookline and the Cambridge area for Warren.

A third tier of Democratic candidates did about as well locally as they did statewide, finishing around 1 or 2 percent: Pete Buttigieg, 84 votes in Agawam; Tulsi Gabbard, 42 votes; Amy Klobuchar, 40 votes. Both Buttigieg and Klobuchar had announced over the weekend that they were ending their campaigns and endorsing Biden.

The rest of the ballot consisted of candidates who also had suspended their campaigns. Former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick led this group, with 25 votes in Agawam, fol-



Agawam resident Missy Blackak casts her two ballots—one for the presidential primary election, one for the state Senate special primary election—at Robinson Park School on March 3. PHOTO BY MICHAEL BALLWAY

lowed by 21 votes for "no preference," 13 for Andrew Yang, 11 for Tom Steyer, 2 for Michael Bennet, 2 for John Delaney and 1 each for Cory Booker and Julian Castro.

Town Clerk Vincent Gioscia reported on Tuesday night that there hadn't been any glitches or incidents at the polls in Agawam.

### Trump thumps Weld

The presence of an actively campaigning former Massachusetts governor on the Republican primary ballot wasn't enough to make it a contest, as Trump took 1,272 votes — 90.7 percent of those who took a GOP ballot in Agawam — to William Weld's 95 votes, or 6.8 percent. There were 13 votes for former Illinois Congressman Joe Walsh, the same as for "no preference."

In the statewide race, news organizations called Massachusetts a Trump win almost immediately after polls closed, with a proportion of the

Republican vote only slightly smaller than his Agawam share. Trump is projected to take all 41 of Massachusetts' delegates at the Republican National Convention.

Election workers will have to hand-count several Republican ballots, as a missed deadline for paperwork resulted in the names of Republican Town Committee members being omitted from the ballot. Voters who wished to support town committee candidates had to write them in.

### Minor parties

Few Agawam voters took Green-Rainbow or Libertarian party ballots. Of the 13 Libertarian votes, six were for write-ins and four for "no preference," with one each for Kenneth Reed Armstrong, Adam Kokesh and Jo Jorgensen.

"No preference" won the Green-Rainbow vote, with 2. There were also single votes for Dario Hunter and a write-in.

### State senator

Voters were given two ballots in Tuesday's election — the usual presidential primary and a special primary election for state senator. Agawam is one of 11 cities this month choosing a successor for former state Sen. Donald Humason Jr., who stepped down in January to become mayor of Westfield.

Both major parties had one candidate running unopposed on their primary ballots. Democrats nominated John Velis, the current state representative from Westfield, to run for senator. Republicans nominated John Cain, a Southwick resident who owns a business in Agawam.

Cain and Velis will meet in a March 31 special election. The winner of that contest will serve the remaining months of Humason's term, which expires at the end of 2020.

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## LOCAL Opportunity IS KNOCKING

### STAFF WRITER POSITION

Turley Publications is seeking an energetic person to fill the position of staff writer for two of its weekly publications: the *Ware River News*, which covers Ware, Hardwick and Warren, and the *Quaboag Current*, which covers the Brookfields, Sturbridge and New Braintree. This full-time position is based in our Ware office at 80 Main St. The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills or the enthusiasm to develop them.

The staff writer will cover municipal meetings, features and general news; essentially everything that unfolds in small towns. Assignments will be for both newspapers as well as other companywide publications.

#### Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- Own camera and photography experience preferred
- Enthusiasm for community journalism
- Ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced environment

Please email resume and three writing samples directly to Eileen Kennedy Managing Editor at [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com).

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# Opinion

## OUR VIEW

### Supt. search right to keep options open

While voters were marking their ballots for a “proven quantity” or an “outsider” on Tuesday, school officials in Agawam are continuing to ponder which sort of leader they want for the next few years.

The choice facing School Committee members hiring the next superintendent isn’t likely to be as stark as “politics as usual” or “drain the swamp” — thank goodness. But one of the decisions they’ll have to make, or at least one of the factors that will weigh on them as they select finalists and make a job offer, is whether to continue the town’s streak of promoting school leaders from within, or to seek a fresh perspective from someone who has demonstrated achievement elsewhere.

Despite a record of success with internal candidates, the School Committee has wisely decided to advertise the job opening to out-of-towners. No matter who ends up applying from within the Agawam School Department, there’s no drawback to at least seeing what a wider workforce has to offer. Even if the job ends up going to an internal candidate, the experience of having spoken with someone from a different organization, and toured that person’s home district, and weighed that person’s qualifications against an administrator they know well, will give them welcome perspective and perhaps even a few new ideas about managing their new superintendent.

Of course, the main reason to look outside the district is that the School Department is a nearly \$50 million enterprise, entrusted with the care and development of the community’s most valuable assets. The students, parents and taxpayers of Agawam deserve the best possible steward in this position. That means seeking out the most qualified candidates — whether or not they’ve ever even been to Agawam. All around New England there must be dozens, if not hundreds, of principals, assistant superintendents and small-town superintendents with the right technical knowledge, charisma, leadership ability and love of children to make a positive impact on Agawam’s schools. Surely some of them live within commuting distance, or would be willing to relocate. To limit the list of candidates to just those whom Agawam has been lucky enough to hire once already would do the town a disservice.

There’s a lot to be said for promoting from within, however. It can take years for a new leader to truly understand the unique culture and personalities of a town and its schools, to say nothing of the political knowledge that comes in handy when dealing with the mayor and City Council at budget time. Agawam was lucky, with the last three superintendents, to be able to hire its incumbent high school principal (Steve Lemanski) and assistant superintendents (William Sapelli and Mary Ann Czajkowski) for the top job. They were able to get to work immediately because they already knew all the major players, the challenges, and all the reasons “why we do it that way.” Just as importantly, they themselves were already known by their fellow administrators, political leaders and families in town.

Agawam’s elected School Committee will have to decide, once the resumes are in, whether a doctoral degree, a glowing recommendation and a fresh set of eyes can outweigh a history in town, a deep local knowledge and a network of local connections.

By considering both kinds of candidates, the School Committee has made its decision harder — but opened itself to considering all the potential merits of a candidate.

*What do you think? Send your letter to the editor to [aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com).*



## Letters to the Editor

### Elephant's death shows need for anti-cruelty law

The USDA’s recent confirmation that Beulah the elephant died of septicemia as a result of pyometra, a uterine infection, revealed much more than just her cause of death. It revealed the pathetically weak federal standards for wild animals in traveling exhibits and the lack of their enforcement.

It also revealed that Comerford Zoo knew that Beulah had a deadly infection when they chose to transport her from Goshen, Conn., to be exhibited for 17 days at the Big E. Septicemia is extremely painful for any species and it was quite clear looking at Beulah on day one that she was ill.

In response to questions submitted by U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, the USDA stated that “appropriate veterinary care and intervention was administered” to Beulah prior to her death. It is

unconscionable that the USDA believes that forcing a seriously ill elderly elephant to stand all day long in such a stressful, unnatural environment for 17 days is acceptable. It is even more unconscionable that she was able to be at the Big E in that condition and that no federal, state or local authorities stepped in when they received pictures of her looking sickly the first two days of the fair and lying down the third day, along with complaints from attendees. That was a big red flag. The Big E, USDA, and local authorities should have conducted an immediate welfare check on Beulah. Instead they dismissed valid concerns about Beulah’s health.

Beulah’s tragic death highlights the urgent need for the passage of S.2028 and H. 2934, a statewide ban on the use of ele-

phants, bears, primates, big cats and giraffes in traveling exhibits and acts. California just became the third state to pass such a ban. It is time for Massachusetts to take appropriate action so that no other animal must suffer as Beulah did. We clearly cannot depend on authorities to ensure wild animals in traveling exhibits and acts are treated humanely.

The Springfield Science Museum’s wildlife exhibit, including a mounted elephant, is far more educational and exciting, as it shows wildlife in their natural habitats. Please don’t let Beulah’s death be in vain and urge your legislators to support S. 2028 and H. 2934.

**Sheryl Becker**  
*Western Mass. Animal Rights Advocates Agawam*

## YESTERDAY’S HOMETOWN NEWS

### An Italian-American in Florence

This week’s article is a little different from what I normally write. The piece this week is dedicated to my loving, hardworking grandparents, Peter and Linda Parrotta, who helped me to be able to study abroad in Florence, Italy, this semester.

That’s right: I’ve spent the last month in Italy, and in fact submitted the February article from my apartment that overlooks Piazza Santa Croce. I’ve had the unique opportunity to walk past the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore every day on my way to school, watch the sunset over the Arno, and, of course, eat LOTS of incredible Italian food. I’ve picked up a modest amount of Italian, forged some kind and fun-loving friendships, and learned so much about myself and what independence looks like. Most importantly: I was able to meet my extended relatives in Torino (or Turin, for us Americans) for the first time. My myriad of aunts, uncles and cousins welcomed me into their homes and into their lives with open arms, showering me with 20 years’ worth of stockpiled love. Being able to spend the weekend in Torino this past February was truly one of the best experiences I’ve ever had.

But ... hey, all good things must come to an end, right? I’m sure you’ve been thinking thus far: “Wait, Italy — isn’t coronavirus a huge issue there right now?”

Yes, yes it is. Such a huge issue, in fact, that my study abroad provider has decided to remove every single American student studying in Italy from the country. I happen to be one of the 300 API students in Florence at the moment.

Now, I’d like to say right away that in the Tuscany region there have only been three confirmed cases, and absolutely no Italian here is panicked. In fact, the Italians here actually think that all the



Sadie Parrotta

Americans fleeing is a complete over-reaction. Coronavirus is a concern, but people in my demographic (i.e., healthy young adults) are at the same risk of dying as we would be of the flu in the United States ... which is to say, we’re barely at risk at all. The reason we are being removed from the program is moreso out of fear of us being quarantined in the country, and also the fear of lawsuits, of course.

As of writing this, Tuscany is currently a “Level 3” on the Centers for Disease Control’s travel rating due to the fear of spreading the contagion, which suggests people do not travel to Italy, but Milan and Venice are “Level 4,” have been on complete shutdown for the past week. People can’t leave their apartments, let alone the “red zone,” so all flights and trains to and from the region are currently inoperable. Stores have been completely cleared out and these world-famous cities are essentially ghost towns at the moment. I guess I’d rather come home early than get stuck like that, but I can’t pretend like I’m not monumentally disappointed.

I don’t want to complain, though! If nothing else, I got a monthlong vacation in Italy, and I’m lucky enough that my class credits are still going to transfer to my home school of Lesley University, so this won’t affect my degree. I’m lucky enough that I got to go abroad at all, even if it wasn’t for as long as I initially thought, because a lot of other students aren’t afforded the same opportunities as I am. With my free time this spring, I plan to seek out an internship, work and save up money to get an apartment in Boston this autumn, spend time with my friends and family, explore the beau-



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# Out & About

Out & About is a community calendar for Agawam and neighboring towns. Free listings are available for non-commercial, non-political entertainment or educational events that are free to attend, or fundraisers that benefit a non-profit organization. Only events in Agawam or one of its immediate bordering towns, or events that benefit an organization based in Agawam, will be listed. Submitted items should be brief, with only time, date, location, activity explanation, and contact information, and may be edited for length and style. Items may be sent to [aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com), faxed to 413-283-7107 or mailed to Agawam Advertiser News, c/o Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. The deadline for calendar listings is noon Friday, the week before that Thursday's newspaper.

**Thursday, March 5**

**TAVERN DINNER FUNDRAISER** at the Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main St., Agawam, 5-7 p.m. A hearty French meat pie dinner will be served for a donation of \$15 per adult, \$10 per child, to benefit preservation of the 1805 building. Take-out is available.

**Friday, March 6**

**WOMEN OF '76** free performance at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam, 7 p.m. Rita Parisi will portray a Hessian general's wife, a minutewoman and spy catcher, and a Southern frontierswoman in this one-woman show about the American Revolution, part of the Agawam

Cultural Council's Applause Series. Doors open at 6:15. More info: [agawamcc.org](http://agawamcc.org).

**Saturday, March 7**

**COMEDY NIGHT** to benefit the Agawam Lions Foundation at Oak Ridge Country Club, 850 S. Westfield St., Feeding Hills, 7 p.m. Comics Greg Boggis, Rob Steen, Tom Hayes and Pat Napoli will perform. Doors open at 6. Tickets are \$25. More info: Richard, 413-335-5434.

**Sunday, March 8**

**MUSIC TO SPRING AHEAD** free concert at Classical High Condominiums, 235 State St., Springfield, 2 p.m. Music Director Gary Bernice will lead young musicians from Springfield's High School of Science and Technology through an energizing, upbeat program. Arrive early to enjoy free pizza and refreshments. Sponsored by Historic Classical. More info: [info@historicclassical.org](mailto:info@historicclassical.org) or 413-636-9550.

**Wednesday, March 11**

**TRADING POST BAG SALE** at First Baptist Church of Agawam, 760 Main St., Agawam, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Shoppers can fill a bag for \$5 from a wide selection of items. Continues Saturday.

**CORNEBEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER** at Agawam High School, 760 Cooper St., Agawam, 5-7 p.m. Tickets are \$13 for adults, \$5 for children. Proceeds benefit the Agawam Lions Club. Girl Scout cookies will also be available for purchase.

## Agawam Senior Center

The Senior Center at 954 Main St., Agawam, is open weekdays, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call 413-821-0605. Lunch is served daily at 11:30 a.m. for a \$3 suggested donation; diners must register 24 hours in advance at 413-821-0604.

**Lunch Menu**

**Monday, March 9:** Chicken tetrazzini, egg noodles, carrots, fresh pear.

**Tuesday, March 10:** Birthday celebration—sloppy Joe on a roll, confetti corn, tater tots, birthday cake.

**Wednesday, March 11:** Roast pork loin, roasted potatoes and carrots, applesauce, gravy, mixed fruit.

**Thursday, March 12:** Chicken cacciatore, pasta with sauce, peppers and onions, tossed salad, pudding.

**Friday, March 13:** Mushroom and barley soup, tuna salad sandwich, cucumber dill salad, pineapple.

**Daily Events**

**Monday, March 9:** Yoga (\$6), 8:15 a.m.; line dancing (\$3), 9:45 a.m.; vision seminar, 10 a.m.; chair yoga (\$6), 11:30 a.m.; bridge group, 12:30 p.m.; bingo, 1 p.m.; social dance, 2 p.m.; Zumba Gold (\$6), 5:30 p.m.; intermediate line

dancing (\$1), 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 10:** Weight training, 8:30 a.m.; knitting, 9 a.m.; Ask the Techs — computer help, 10 a.m.; Zumba Gold (\$6), 10:15 a.m.; ladies billiards, noon; Senior Cinemas ("Three Amigos"), 12:30 p.m.; mah jongg, 12:30 p.m.; dominoes, 12:30 p.m.; canasta, 1 p.m.; writing group, 1:30 p.m.; yoga (\$6), 4:30 p.m.; Garden Club, 6 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 11:** Yoga (\$6), 8:15 a.m.; gentle yoga (\$6), 9:45 a.m.; bereavement group, 10 a.m.; bridge, 12:30 p.m.; ballroom lesson (see staff), 1 p.m.; Golden Agers Chapter 1 meeting, 1:30 p.m.; Zumba Gold (\$6), 5:30 p.m.

**Thursday, March 12:** Weight training, 8:30 a.m.; quilting, 9 a.m.; Wii Sports, 10:15 a.m.; reiki (\$10), 10:30 a.m.; bridge, 12:15 p.m.; dominoes, 12:30 p.m.; open art, 1 p.m.; blood pressure check, 1 p.m.; Trash to Cash seminar, 1 p.m.; intermediate line dancing (\$1), 5:30 p.m.

**Friday, March 13:** Yin Yoga (\$6), 8:15 a.m.; Let's Paint (\$10), 9:15 a.m.; chats about hearing, 10 a.m.; tai chi (\$6), 10 a.m.; canasta, 1 p.m.; cornhole, 1 p.m.; cribbage, 1 p.m.; card games, 1 p.m.; essential oil class, 5:30 p.m.; "beyond beginner" line dancing (\$1), 6 p.m.

**PARROTTA** ■  
from page 6

ty of New England, and, of course, create a lot of art and writing pieces! Maybe that's not as glamorous as taking weekend vacations in Madrid, but goal-setting and being with my loved ones fuels my soul just the same.

OK, enough talking about current events — this is Yesterday's Hometown News, after all! I wrote this short narrative for the creative writing class I was taking in Florence in response to my professor asking us to explain why, of all cities in the world, we chose to study abroad in Florence specifically. Please enjoy.

Walls painted to match the color of crema flavored gelato. Cold tile floors speckled with grey and brown, like cobblestone in the city square. A faux-panorama painting above the left side of the kitchen table set with little silver spoons and Italian sprinkle cookies piled on little teal-and-white plates. The view is printed onto the wallpaper with cool blue lines: a piazza in the still morning, its silence only broken by the soft implied bubble of a motionless water fountain. The windows, flanked on either side by shutters, gift plants in terracotta pots with sunlight as they relax on their sill.

At this moment, in my grandparents' kitchen, I am 6 years old. It's a late breakfast for us both, and I am sitting on my knees on a wooden chair much too big for me with my grandfather, moving pieces of Honey Nut Cheerios around in my cereal bowl with a brightly-colored plastic spoon. Cappuccino steam rises into his face as he lifts a dainty coffee cup to his lips and takes a sip.

He eyes the piazza painting as I do, but he does not linger the same way. The illustration pales in comparison to the Technicolor of his memories: Sunday strolls through the Piazza

Castello of Torino, a coffee in one hand and a biscotti in the other as he's gently shadowed from the boiling sun's harsh light by the Royal Palace.

I am different. At 6 years old, my world ends at the edge of Agawam, Massachusetts: a blue-collar farming town guarded by a state forest of haunted birch trees. Agawam has no flowing marble water fountains in piazza centers; no, Agawam has strip-mall plazas and a few Cumberland Farms. Not bad, but not very historical. I look up at the illustration on the kitchen wall and I see what I can only assume is a town that may only exist in movies. Clean, manicured, and somehow alive, even when no life stirs in its space.

"Is that place real?" I ask in my softest voice, pointing with my thin, little finger up at the wall.

My grandfather follows my point with his eyes. "Yes," he replies simply.

"Is that where you're from?"

"Maybe. Most towns in Italy look that way," he says slowly, carefully articulating each sound before taking another sip from his cup. Even after 40 years of living in this small town in Massachusetts, his old country accent has held sturdy and strong like real mahogany.

We are quiet for another moment more. I am 6 years old, and thus too young to understand what it even means to have a home, let alone what it feels like to leave it. I do know that my grandfather fixed cars as a boy in a small shop in Locri, Calabria, and I know, too, that as a young man he moved up north and opened up his own auto repair shop in Torino, Piemonte. I know that's where his family — our family — is now. His four sisters, their spouses, their children, and all of his aunts and uncles and cousins. I hear their voices speaking



Santa Maria del Fiore in Florence, Italy. FLICKR PHOTO BY BRUCE STOKES

words I can't understand over the phone sometimes, but I do not know them and they do not know me. I am 6 years old and too young to be told the full story: that my grandfather's father had moved to Torino before him and passed away, perished in a factory accident. I am too young to understand the burden that was placed on the only son in the family to provide for a house full of girls in an era that kept women bound to stove-tops and clotheslines. I am too young to understand the risk and fear of a boy at the age of 18 leaving home on his own to carve out a better life for himself and his family in a city on the other side of the country. Hours upon hours slaving underneath dirty car beds, breathing in gasoline, and tearing apart the tanned skin on his hands in order to save up the money necessary to save his family from the crime and poverty of southern Italy. He would not let his family down, and he didn't.

I know that once the family got settled in their new lives, my grandfather took a trip to America to visit his uncle and met a polite young woman named Linda Melloni who lived on Royal Lane with her mother and brothers. I know that he and my grandmother met, and they fell in love right away, and that he left his home in Italy and moved here to Agawam, Massachusetts, to spend

the rest of his life with her. Not until my adulthood will I understand the pain of saying goodbye, and the way that fondness grows from absence like hogweed overtaking a rose garden. I will learn my grandfather's story one day, but not this day, not at 6 years old.

I dare to ask it: "Do you miss it there?"

My grandfather looks at me solemnly, takes a moment to finish his warm cappuccino brew, and nods his head. "Of course."

"Maybe we can go visit Italy together one day. That'd be really cool," I say, finally taking a big swallowing gulp of the soggy Cheerios that had been left neglected and drowning in the yellow bowl of white milk before me.

"I am too old to make a



A modern view of Piazza Castello in Turin, Italy.

WIKIMEDIA PHOTO BY CHENSIYUAN

journey like that now ... but you should go. You will love it."

"I think so, too," I chirp back reply in between slurps of cereal, a smile on my face as I color the wallpaper scene in my mind.

I do not know it now, but when I am 20, my world will grow beyond convenience stores and the mossy birch woods. When I am 20, I will wake up every morning in the city of flowers, the city of Florence, and open the shutters of my windows to let the sunlight wash over me, and I will feel myself grow. When I am 20, I will catch my balance on the ancient cobblestone roads as I race to class in the early mornings. Everything will be in motion: the hustling people, the singing birds, the stylish cars and my mind. When I am 20, I will throw coins into flowing water fountains to

thank the stars, not to ask for more; I will not need to make any more wishes, because all my wishes will have already come true.

At the age of 6 years old, I do not know yet that in 14 years I will be kissed and embraced and fed plenty by my grandfather's four sisters, and their spouses, and their children, and all of our aunts and uncles and cousins, but I will finally understand the depth of this meeting and reunion. When I am 20 years old and asked why I chose to spend my sophomore spring in Florence, Italy, I will reply that there is a home and a love here, and I have come to feel it burning in my chest as my grandfather did before me.

*Sadie Parrotta is 2018 graduate of Agawam High School and lifelong resident of town.*

## Our Back Pages

From yesteryear's editions of the Agawam Advertiser News, compiled by Michael Ballway.

**A year ago:** Former resident Matthew Lawlor is collecting memorabilia of the former Bowles Agawam Airport, an airfield on the current site of the Agawam Industrial Park, reported the March 7, 2019, Agawam Advertiser News. Lawlor said he found a memento from the airport's 1930 dedication on eBay and became fascinated with the town's forgotten aviation history. He set up a page on Facebook.com to connect with anyone who may have items or images to share.

**Five years ago:** AHS hockey and tennis players and parents mourned the passing of Rodolfo "Rudy" Altobelli on March 8, 2015. Altobelli, an Agawam High School teacher from 1967 to 1997, died just days after the Brownies ice

hockey team, which he founded, won its first Western Massachusetts Division 3 championship. Altobelli's name also adorns the high school tennis courts, recognizing his role in founding that varsity program. Born in 1930, he was also a U.S. Army veteran and had been honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Agawam Democratic Town Committee. **Ten years ago:** The wording of Agawam's teachers contract may prevent the schools from receiving a \$150,000 Massachusetts Math and Science Initiative grant, reported the March 11, 2010, Agawam Advertiser News. The grant awards teachers bonuses of up to \$3,000 based on student performance on Advanced Placement tests, which union officials viewed as altering the negotiated salary schedule and introducing merit pay.



# Schools & Youth

## School Lunch

**AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL**

High schoolers can also substitute a pizza meal for their entrée.

Monday, March 9: Rib-b-que on whole-grain bun, vegetarian baked beans, carrots and dip; or popcorn chicken with dipping sauce, whipped potatoes, seasoned broccoli, corn and black bean salad.

Tuesday, March 10: Turkey and gravy, whipped potato, seasoned corn, dinner roll; or beef taco boat, shredded romaine, tomato, cheese, salsa, sour cream, rice and beans.

Wednesday, March 11: Chicken fillet wrap with assorted sauce, lettuce, tomato, cheese, side of coleslaw, bean salad.

Thursday, March 12: Fresh assorted calzones, garden salad with light dressing; or pasta with meat sauce, garlic knot, California blend vegetables, bean salad.

Friday, March 13: Bacon cheeseburger, Cape Cod chips, mixed vegetables; or meatball grinder with cheese, sweet potato fries, green beans.

**AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

Monday, March 9: Barbecue rib-b-que on whole-grain bun, coleslaw, marinated chick-peas.

Tuesday, March 10: Turkey club with bacon sandwich, shredded romaine and sliced tomato, french fries.

Wednesday, March 11: Pasta with meatballs,

garlic knot, steamed broccoli, carrots and dip, Goldfish crackers.

Thursday, March 12: Chicken fajita on whole-grain tortilla, rice and beans, green beans.

Friday, March 13: French bread pizza, garden salad with chickpeas, cookie.

**ROBERTA DOERING SCHOOL  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

Monday, March 9: Popcorn chicken, potato rounds, red pepper and cucumber slices with ranch, garlic knot.

Tuesday, March 10: Cheeseburger, elbow macaroni, celery stick, corn, whole-grain garlic knot.

Wednesday, March 11: Pasta with meatballs, garlic knot, steamed broccoli, Goldfish crackers.

Thursday, March 12: Deli melt with turkey and cheese, oven fries, carrots with dip.

Friday, March 13: French bread pizza, garden salad with chickpeas, cookie.

**BREAKFAST**

The daily breakfast entrée menu was not available at press time. All breakfasts include assorted cold cereal, muffins and pastries, cheese sticks, fresh fruit and orange juice.

Serving times: High school, 7 a.m.; junior high, 7:15 a.m.; Granger, 7:55 a.m.; Doering, 8:10 a.m.; Phelps, 8:20 a.m.; Robinson Park, 8:30 a.m.; Clark, 8:35 a.m.

## HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

Agawam High School Principal Thomas Schnepf recently announced the second term honor roll for the 2019-20 school year.

**Grade 12:** Arianna Albano, Gabriella Badura, Madison Beaulieu, Conor Begley, Cameron Benoit, Maxwell Blanton, Emily Bonfiglio, Mackenzie Boyle, Nicholas Brady, Allison Breton, Jason Breton, Sofia Bubuza, Nicholas Buonagurio, Deanna Burlachenko, Jamie-Lyn Cavallon, Aidan Chan, Cassidy Clarke, Kiera Cooley, Riley Coughlin, Adam Dabkowski, Cedric Davis, Hailey Desrosiers, Sydney Dietrich, Mackenzie Douglas, Jack Dunn, Megan Dunphy, Katherine Dustin, Madison Elias, Hailey Emmons, Erin Ewing, Maxwell Felix, Anthony Ferraro, Matthew Flagg, Emily Fontaine, Jack Frogameni, Olivia Frogameni, Emma Gale, Patrick Gauthier, Sierra Gauthier, Nadia Ghareeb, Zao Gill, Katelyn Gingras, Matthew Gorman, Siyuan Hollowell, Amanda Hervieux, Jaylee Hiersche, Emily Houle, Andrea Hunt, Kaylish Ingham, Mariel Izoita, Dong Kang, Mia Kelley, Nastasia Kirik, Cole Klafeta, Dorina Kodreanu, Anthony Krzykowski, Rukiye Kumas, Allessa Ladue, Kristen Langevin, Nickolas Lavrenchuk, Payton Lemke, Samuil Levchuk, Matthew Long, Evan Lyne, McKenzie Lyne, Godfrey Macadangdang, Ryan MacDonald, Abbey Majka, John Manale, Madison Manser, Tate Mason, Courtney McDonnell, Dinu Mita, Madeline Mizanoglu, Zachary Moccio, Zol Mohammad, Connor Montagna, Cody Moquin, Jonathan Murray, Andy Nguyen, Emelie Oberheim, Alexandra Oldenburg, Jailene Ortiz, Mansi Patel, Mason Phillips, Lucas Pinto, Samuel Polley, Brendan Poole, Ian Poulin, Geta Preniqi, Zachary Quick, Loredana Randazzo, Cassie Reed, Denniangelly Ritchiez, Mechayla Rosa, Joseph Russo Jr, Anna Russo, Antonio Russo, Dzmitry Ryhal, Abigail Sanchez, Michael Santore, Gavin Scannapieco, Angelina Shayda, Mikayla Sole, Brady Spaulding, Caitlyn Sprague, Gabrielle Suffriti, Amanda Szczepanek, Rhiannon Thibeault, Emma Thomson, Humberto Torres, James Typrowicz, Brianna Viens, Ryan Wargo, Mason Wesley, Zack Wieners, Amanda Woodford, Jessica Zhao, Eric Zheng.

**Grade 11:** Emily Ball, William Balzano, Abel Barbaneagra, Kimberly Beaver, Tyler Benjamin, Sofia Blanchette, Trinity Boliski, Joshua Bouchard, Jenalyn Broussard, Delaney Brown, Kevin Bryden, Ryan Butler, Hannah Cahill, Isabella Caputo, Madeline Cascio, Austin Cohen, Keeley Cote, Serena Croteau, Gianna Curto, Emily Czupta, David Dagenais, Justin Davis, Hannah Davydov, Nicole DePergola, Marissa Deslauriers, Arianna Diaz, Anthony Dillard, Emily Ehresman, Cristina Ferraro, Christian Fisk, Jocelyn Fonseca, Katherine Gauthier, Chase Gentile, Samantha Gentile, Amelia Gioscia, Benjamin Gordon, Taylor Gosselin, Joseph Goudreau, Andrew Grasso, Hope Gravanis, Lauren Gurau, Julia Hall, Julia Hampton, Mia Hastings, Sophia Hunt, Ashley Hurley, Alexander Jodoin, Alyssa Johnson, Margaret Johnston, Dean Kadonaga, Jacob Kibbe, Emanuel Kodreanu, Adam Krause, Asude Kumas, Ciara Lamoureux, Emily Landry, Austin Larrabee, Brianna Lasorsa, Kolby Lindell, Nina Liquori, Samantha Lubarsky, Jaron Luke, Stephanie Maloni, Kevin Matos, Sydney Maxey, Brenna McAnanama, Sabrina McBride, Meagan McKiernan, Yeva Meleshko, Erin Mikuszewski, Sophia Moccio, Chelsea Normand, Tia Nuzzolilli, Cara Pagnoni, Xander Pananas, Timothy Polevoy, Antonio Ramos, Mackenzie Ritchie, Jennifer Ritter, Emma Rokicki, Sarah Ross, Christian Rua, Sofia Ruiz, Damien Ryan, Olivia Salva, Jackson Schlosser, Kiley Sheehan, Rachel Sills, Summer Smith, Annabella Spinney, Rowenn Stevens, McKenna Strong, Julia Sweeney, Rilee Tourville, Athena Trench, Connor Twohig, Isabelle Uneegar, Kayleah Unglaub, Nathan Vining, Uyen Vu, Abigail Waris, Joseph Weyant, Em-

merson White, Michael Winer, Kaitlin Winters, Lucas Woods, Sulamita Yukhimets.

**Grade 10:** Amara Agosto, Jenna Alicea, James Anziano, Olivia Barbarini, Samani Barnes, Kannon Behrens, Kailey Butler, Virginia Caney, Reid Carrier, Deniel Castellano Cruz, Sarah Champigny, Camer Chrisanthopoulos, Liliana Cicchetti, Jaylina Cone, Hannah Cote, Taylor Cotton, Jaden Couture, Evan Cruz, Mikayla Curley, Evan Danek, Emily DeGeorge, Maria Dellarole, Brooke Deming, Nicholas Donovan, Alyssa Drumm, Megan Duquette, Ella Eastman, Amelia Ellison, Victoria Felton, Maxwell Florian, Jessica Fox, Sera Gagnon, Livia Gavelis, Diana Ghareeb, Sofia Giordano, Evelin Gomez Ramos, Jacob Griswold, Emily Gulla, Greta Halford, Marissa Hermans, Abbey Hildreth, Madison Hill, Haley Hinshaw, Jessica Huston, Samira Ismailova, Samantha Izoita, Jaden Jarrosak, Autumn Jones, Allison Kasperek, Patrick Kelly, Ella Kinchak, Emily Kukharchuk, Mark Kulmizev, Nathan LaBonte, Clara Laudato, Nicholas Laviolette, Rachel Le, Brynn Legros, Leila London, Caleb Liacos, Rebecca Littlehale, Hannah Longtin, Patrick MacDonald, Vincent Martin, Kaycie McColley, Aiden McKay, Samantha Mielnikowski, Emily Miolla, Emma Miolla, Jayden Montagna, Kaeli Olson, Paige O'Neil, Emily Ottomaniello, Alexis Ouimette, Jaiden Pacheco, Jack Patterson, Grace Payne, Jaman Potter, Brandon Prior, Ali Qureshi, Dayna Rahilly, Selma Rahman, Isabella Recchia, Brooke Rising, Zackary Schipper, Ashley Seng, Jacob Sheehan, Kristina Sholopa, Nicholas Skorupski, Gianna Smith, Michael Sotolotto, Mariam Stepchuk, Ainsley Stevens, Sarah Tayeh, Ashlyn Thomas, Domenic Vecchiarelli, Ernest Whitehead, Asher-Wyatt Wright, Madison Zomek.

**Grade 9:** Vaneeza Ahmed, Muhamer Ahmeti, Carson Asselin, Omar Aydah, Megan Ball, Jacob Barber, Emilia Barron, Ailany Batista, Julianne Bazanchuk, Matthew Benard, Madison Bennett, Allison Boucher, Landen Cahill, Thomas Cascio, Ava Catelotti, Kyl Cavanaugh-O'Hanlon, Nolan Chamberland, Genevieve Charette, Kylie Circosta, Matthew Cleavall, Rachel Cohen, Sean Colfer, Owen Connery, Sophia Consolini, Ruben Cornejo Ayala, Zahide Cure, Patrick Dahm, Alexander DeGray, Joshua Diaz, Kendyl Donner, Dakota Drummond, Ahmed Elbakri, Anthony Elias, Murphy Estes, Dylan Fisk, Ryan Fitzgerald, Emily Fitzpatrick, Grace Frasier, Emily Gamelli, Bradi Gauthier, Bailey Gervais, Kendra Grady, Christina Grasso, Zoe Hartmann, Amari Hatcher, Dimitri Heinze, Julianna Hunt, Zachary Hurley, Melina Ichtton, Lynn Jang, Diana Javadian, Colin Jorgensen, Jonathan Jung, Shamals Jusino, Joshua Kennedy, Kevin Kiley, Colin La, Isabel Lalancette, Ian Lamari, Sarah Legros, Ava Levesque, Joseph Liquori, Sophia Longo, Sydney Lubarsky, Nellie Lukomski, Tyler Ma, Erica Majka, Cohen Manekas, Hannah Manning, Jackson McLaughlin, Sierra Moccio, Arnold Moore, Samuel Morse, Daniel Mudrenko, Isabella Nazarets, Hailey Newsome, Abigail Nottall, Aidan Nottall, William Noll, Morgan Oldenburg, Nathaniel Olmo, Spencer Page, Madison Pajak, Mary Papova, William Parker, Amber Patrick, Guilja Perella, Megan Perrot, Rocco Persico, Stefane Phillips, Alina Polevoy, Diana Polyova, Antoine Poulin, Kenna Rainville, Kayla Santucci, Huda Sarhan, Alexandra Seibert, Kyle Seldomridge, Isaiah Serrano, Emily Sexton, Gabriella Shayda, Kelvin Smith, Jordan Stack, Cole Stepanik, Reese Stevens, Zyona Sutton, Hadi Syed, Sarah Tower, Tara Trudeau, Kylie Turgeon, Isabella Ugolini, Nicholas Uschmann, KelcieVELOZO, Kristen Vinciguerra, Dylan Walsh, McKenna Wheeler, Samantha Wheeler, Tyler Williams, Daniel Yovenko, Gabrielle Zollo.

## Easter egg hunt planned for April 4

All local youngsters are invited to the town Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department, Agawam Lions Club and Agawam Rotary Club, on Saturday, April 4, at School Street Park.

Eggs will be available in three age groups — age 4 and younger, ages 5-7, and age 8 and older — with special prizes in each area. Allergy-free gift bags will be available upon request.

The hunt will begin promptly at 11 and those attending are asked to bring their own basket or bag to collect eggs. Participants should meet at the School Street Park pavilion, off Corey Street. Families are advised to arrive early, as this is a well-attended event.

Parking is available in both the Corey Street and School Street lots. The cost is \$5 per family (carload), payable at the parking



Participants in last year's town Easter egg hunt scramble to find plastic eggs at School Street Park. FILE PHOTO

lot. No advance registration is necessary. The rain or snow date is Saturday, April 11. For more information, call 413-821-0513.



Troop 82 members await the start of the Boy Scouts Sunday service at Agawam Congregational Church on Feb. 16. SUBMITTED PHOTO BY ROBERTA PAGE

## Scout troop renews ties to church

Agawam Congregational Church celebrated a special Boy Scouts Sunday with Troop 82 at its 10 a.m. service on Feb. 16.

This year, Troop 82, the oldest troop in Agawam, recognized its 60th year of association with Agawam Congregational Church.

Following a presentation of the colors at the beginning of the service, scouts led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and participated in the Call to Worship.

Troop 82 Scoutmaster Robert Majewski presented the troop's renewal of its charter to the church. Pastor Thomas Howells accepted the charter on behalf of the church and its members.

A Boy Scout message was delivered by

Scout Unit Committee Chairman Joseph Longo. Scouts retired the colors at the close of the church service.

Troop 82 members assist the church throughout the year, especially in late fall, when they rake leaves and prepare the lawn and planted areas for the winter season.

Troop 82 will host a pancake breakfast in the church hall 8-11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 18. Tickets are \$5 per person and may be purchased at the door. All are invited and encouraged to support Troop 82 and its association with the church. The church, at 745 Main St., Agawam, is handicapped accessible, with a large parking area.

Troop 82 meets weekly from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Agawam Congregational Church.

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE AGENDA

**7 p.m. Tuesday, March 10  
Agawam Junior High School  
1305 Springfield St., Feeding Hills**

- Executive Session — 5 p.m. (Contract Negotiations and Personnel)
1. Call to order
  2. Moment of silence
  3. Roll call of attendance
  4. Regular meeting — 7 p.m.
  5. Citizen's Speak Time
  6. Highlights on Education:
    - a. Junior High School Golf Club & E-Sports presentation
  7. Superintendent's Notes
  8. Student Advisory Committee representative update
  9. Unfinished business: None
  10. Business meeting
    - a. Routine matters
      - 1) Approval of minutes
      - 2) Calendar/correspondence
    - b. Warrants/transfers
    - c. Reports:
    - 1) Scheduled Reports:

- Social Emotional Learning Update – M. DeJesus
- 2) Subcommittee updates
- 11. New business:
  - a. SCR-20-05, Acceptance of Toner Cartridge Donation from Governors America Corporation
  - b. SCR-20-06, Approval of Summer School Tuition Increase
- 12. Policy Review:
  - a. Policy JB, Equal Educational Opportunities, 2nd and 3rd readings
  - b. Policy JBB, Equal Education Opportunities, 2nd and 3rd readings
  - c. Policy JFABD, Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights & Services, 2nd and 3rd readings
  - d. Policy JFABE, Educational Opportunities for Military Children, 2nd and 3rd readings
  - e. Policy JFABF, Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care, 2nd and 3rd readings
  - f. Policy DD, Funding Proposal and Applications, 2nd and 3rd readings
  - g. Policy BEDH, Public Participation at School Committee Meetings, 2nd and 3rd readings
- 13. Any other items that may legally come before the committee
- 14. Adjournment

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A photograph of a baseball player in a white uniform with the number 34, in the middle of a throwing motion on a field.



# Schools & Youth

## Academic A's honor classroom achievement

By Mike Lydick  
aan@turley.com

"It feels really good to get this award," said Mia Albano. "It's a recognition of my hard work and dedication to academics."

She was one of 155 AHS students who were honored with a special award last week for their work in the classroom.

The award — known as the Academic A — is usually presented to seniors who have maintained at least a 3.0 (B) cumulative grade-point average during their freshman, sophomore, and junior years, as well as the first semester of their senior year. Albano is a junior, but she will be graduating early with the class of 2020.

Planning to attend Endicott College and major in nursing, she took a few classes at Springfield Technical Community College so she could complete her Agawam High School studies in three years.

"I'm excited to be going to college — I'm ready," she said.

Assistant Principal Susan Feyre said that in addition to Albano, three other juniors — Abigail Agron, Anna Shlemanov and Kayleah Unglaub — were promoted to grade 12 status after fulfilling necessary graduation requirements. All these juniors will be graduating in June.

Their accelerated status was achieved through "superior efforts via early college efforts," said Feyre. "Last year, two students who excelled in a similar fashion were also recognized with an Academic A," she added. "It's amazing that they're able to excel

during their day school experience and also excel at college evening classes and/or college summer classes."

Albano wasn't the only one in her family to receive an Academic A last Tuesday night at the School Committee meeting. Her older sister, Arianna, was also honored.

Arianna Albano said the award made her feel "very accomplished and proud" of her hard work in the classroom. But it was also bittersweet for her, because it means she will be graduating in just over three months.

"I'm going to miss all of these memories and all the friends I've known since kindergarten," she said.

The award, which also includes a certificate, is similar to the "varsity letters" that honor athletic achievements. It is a large white "A" trimmed in orange with a yellow lamp of knowledge in the center.

It's a major award that is also a prelude to graduation and one of several awards many of them will receive between now and then. This year, nearly 55 percent of the 276 students in the class of 2020 met the academic requirement for the award.

Gabriella Badura only found out the day before the awards presentation, so she was still feeling the excitement it generated.

"My parents are really excited for me, too. It was a surprise to learn I was getting the award — and I feel really proud of myself for earning this recognition," she said.

Imani Barbour had just one word to describe how she felt after getting her Academic A: happy.

"It was so important to me to get

good grades and get into college," she said. "This award makes me feel I've been successful in the goals I've set for myself." The senior added that she's looking forward to graduating. "I'm excited about moving on with my life."

This was the 20th year that Academic A's have been presented to seniors. Susan Pettazzoni, who served on the committee from 1992 to 2006, came up with the idea.

Mayor and School Committee Chairman William Sapelli called it a "wonderful idea." He said Pettazzoni wanted to honor Agawam seniors who are successful in academics with an award similar to what students earn for their athletic skills.

School Superintendent Steve Lemanski said the number of students receiving the award has grown over the years. He attributes the increase not only to the hard work of students but also to teachers, administrators and parents who stress the importance of academic excellence.

Lemanski and AHS Principal Thomas Schnepf presented the awards to each student after his or her name was announced.

"It's quite an accomplishment for these students," said Schnepf.

Students unable to attend the awards ceremony were also recognized. Their names were announced during the presentation just as it would have been had they attended. After receiving their certificates and letters, seniors went through a receiving line that included School Committee members, school administrators, and city councilors.



From left, sisters Arianna and Mia Albano, and their friend Gabriella Badura, smile after receiving their Academic A's on Feb. 25. Mia Albano is one four Agawam High School juniors who not only excelled in academics but achieved accelerated status to graduate with the Class of 2020 in June. PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK



Imani Barbour, Emily Bazanchuk and Brianna Benjamin, from left, proudly display their Academic A's.



Holding up their Academic A's are, from left, Max Blanton, Emily Bonfiglio and Nicholas Brady.

## This year's honorees

Members of the class of 2020 at Agawam High School who were awarded Academic A's last week include the following. Those marked with an asterisk (\*) are juniors graduating a year early. The rest are seniors completing their fourth year.

Abigail Agron\*, Shkurte Ahmeti, Arianna Albano, Mia Albano\*, Sydney Anderson, Gabriella Badura, David Baranov, Imani Barbour, Emily Bazanchuk, Madison Beaulieu, Conor Begley, Brianna Benjamin, Michael Berthiaume, Cassidy Bishop, Lauren Blanchard, Maxwell Blanton, Emily Bonfiglio, Elizabeth Bousquet, Mackenzie Boyle, Gianna Boyle, Nicholas Brady, Allison Breton, Jason Breton, Sofia Bubuz, Nicholas Buonagurio, Deanna Burlachenko, Jamie-Lyn Cavallon,

Aidan Chan, Ruby Chenevert, Cassidy Clarke, Kiera Cooley, Emily Cote, Riley Coughlin, Erika Couture, Megan Crawford, Cedric Davis, Alexander Denisenko, Sydney Dietrich, Mackenzie Douglas, Jack Dunn, Megan Dunphy, Katherine Dustin, Madison Elias, Hailey Emmons, Erin Ewing, Maxwell Felix, Anthony Ferraro, Connor Feyre, Jaliyah Figueroa, Matthew Flagg, Emily Fontaine, McKenzie Forfa, Olivia Frogameni, Jack Frogameni, Emma Gale, Patrick Gauthier, Sierra Gauthier, Karlie Germain, Nadia Ghareeb, Lindsey Ghidoni, Zao Gill, Katelyn Gingras, Matthew Gorman, Siyuan Hallowell, Matthew Harrington, Amanda Hervieux, Jaylee Hiersche, Rhiannon Hodovanec, Kaylish Ingham, Heather

Iserman, Mariel Izoita, Ally Jabry, Dong Kang, Mia Kelley, Nastasia Kirik, Cole Klafeta, Anthony Krzykowski, Rukiye Kumas, Allegra Ladue, Kristen Langevin, Nickolas Lavrenchuk, Payton Lemke, Matthew Long, Joseph Longo, McKenzie Lyne, Evan Lyne, Godfrey Macadangdang, Ryan MacDonald, Abbey Majka, John Manale, Merna Mandour, Madison Manser, Jessica Marino, Tate Mason, Kirsten McDonnell, Eric Melnik, Harrison Mendrala, Zachary Moccio, Connor Montagna, Cody Moquin, Jonathan Murray, Sarafina Nardi, Eric Nesen, Shawn Newsome, Emelie Oberheim, Alexandra Oldenburg, Jailene Ortiz, Suzanne Page, Prem Patel, Kaia Pfeffer, Mason Phillips, Joseph Piccoli, Samuel Polley, Brendan Poole,

Ian Poulin, Geta Preniqi, Zachary Quick, Loredana Randazzo, Cassie Reed, Abigail Rodriguez, Jonathan Rolon, Antonio Russo, Anna Russo, Joseph Russo, Dmitry Ryhal, Abigail Sanchez, Michael Santore, Gavin Scannapieco, Angelina Shayda, Jordan Shea, Anna Shlemanov\*, Dylan Sliech, Emily Smidt, Mikayla Sole, Brady Spaulding, Esther Stepchuk, Jihan Stone, Gabrielle Suffriti, Brooke Szafran, Amanda Szczepanek, Robert Taylor, Emma Thomson, Ethan Timms, Humberto Torres, Sydney Trigilio, James Typrowicz, Kayleah Unglaub\*, Brianna Viens, Mason Wesley, Zack Wieners, Amanda Woodford, Marykate Wysocki, Gianna Yacovone, Jessica Zhao, Eric Zheng.

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For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for Agawam Advertiser News, please email [mballway@turley.com](mailto:mballway@turley.com).

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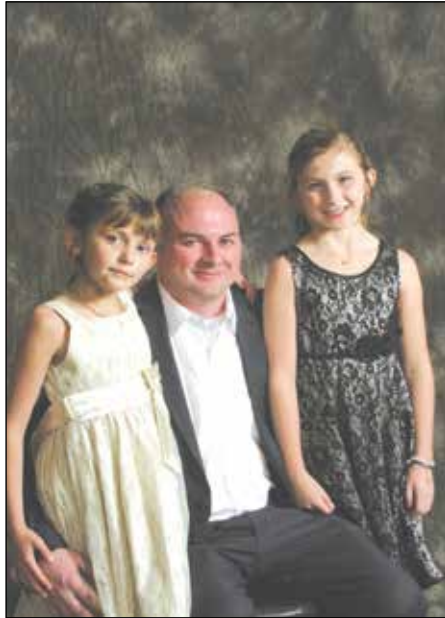
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- Extractions



# Dancing with dad



Michael Zolkiewicz poses for a photo with his daughter Leah Emmett, and Paul Versace with his daughter Mia Harrington.



Bret Pajer took his daughters Emerson and Madelyn to the annual dance.



Stella Christopher, Kiley Ryan, Chloe Pierson, Megan Outhouse and Madelyn Pajer hang out at the Father-Daughter Dance. PHOTOS BY ADRIANNE JOHNSON



Kris and his daughter Abby Gagnon attended the Feb. 27 Father-Daughter Dance, an annual tradition for the Agawam Parks and Recreation Department.



Jessie Holmes was at the dance with his daughter Jaelyn.



Jon Quenneville and his daughter Addison, and Jim Flood with his daughter Kyleigh, enjoyed the Father-Daughter Dance.



Dancers included Payton Malanson, Abby Gagnon, Makayla Rosario and Eva Montagna.



When they weren't dancing, girls gathered around the candy table at last week's Father-Daughter Dance at Oak Ridge Country Club in Feeding Hills, sponsored by the Agawam Parks and Recreation Department.



Girls take to the dance floor.

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# SPORTS

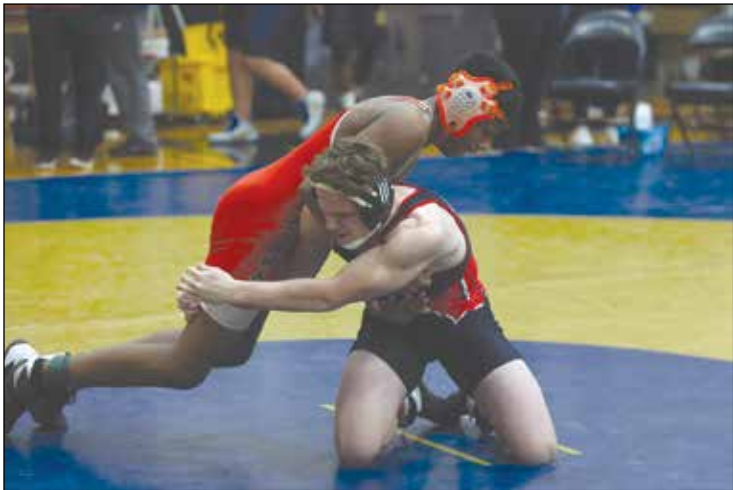
## WRESTLING

### Brownies compete at sectionals

Last month, the Agawam High School wrestling team competed at the Western Massachusetts Division 1 meet at Central High School. Agawam, which has built a deeper team, placed sixth overall with 138 points. The Brownies crowned two champions, one runner-up, and placed three more in the state meet with fourth place finishes. Antonio Ramos and Harrison Mendrala won Western Mass. titles at 285 and 182, respectively. Both captured decision wins. Tom Carciolo was a runner up at 170 pounds, losing a 2-1 decision. David Baranov, Andrey Maslyanskiy, and Russell Cooper all were fourth-place finishers, losing their respective consolation matches.

David Baranov holds the advantage during a match.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY  
WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM



Jaedyn Perez tries to avoid a takedown.



Myles Pires attempts to turn over his downed opponent.

## BOYS BASKETBALL

### Moccio, Berthiaume lead Agawam past Chaug in final game

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

As another non-playoff appearance season ends for the Agawam High School boys basketball team, there was marked improvement in the latter part of the season for the Brownies.

Agawam finished the season with five wins overall, but won four league games late in the season, including their season finale on Wednesday, Feb. 19 against Minnechaug Regional High School.

Minnechaug was a playoff team that reached the quarterfinals of the tournament.

Agawam was celebrating Senior Night against the Falcons, and jumped out to an early lead thanks to some sharp shooting and some impressive rebounding. The Brownies then went to the well a few times, nailing down a pair of three-pointers by Zach Moccio and Matt Hotaling that really started to create a little separation in the score.

Agawam would eventually take a 38-27 lead at halftime.

With Agawam's season ending and Minnechaug's already heading to tournament, there was no urgency to cause any injuries on Minnechaug sides, and Agawam was able to coast through most of the second half as well. The hot hands of Moccio and Mike Berthiaume

were able to ride that through the remainder of the game. Moccio finished with a game-high of 20 points while Berthiaume was right behind him with 19 points. Josiah Bass-Collins added eight points and Evan Lyne was off the

bench with seven points. Moccio, in his final game with the Brownies, had four treys.

Agawam also defeated Chicopee Comprehensive twice in Suburban League action and defeated

BASKETBALL | page 12



Left: Josiah Bass-Collins makes a free throw attempt. Right: Mike Berthiaume dekes, then makes a drive for the basket.

PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

## MIAA

### Statewide tournament passes, will be implemented in 2021

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

As the Western Massachusetts basketball and hockey tournaments press on this week, a new tournament is now on the horizon.

Last Friday morning, the MIAA's membership voted in favor of holding a statewide tournament in all high school sports, and will do away with sectional tournaments beginning in fall 2021.

A special meeting of the MIAA and its board of directors was held last Friday morning at Assabet Valley Technical High School in Marlboro. Every member of the MIAA was allowed to send a representative to the meeting to vote on the proposal to hold a statewide tournament.

It was clear by opinions voiced leading up to the meeting that most of Western Massachusetts' was against the proposal. Most of the opinions were that a statewide tournament would more benefit the eastern part of the state.

But with the hurried rollout of the plan, concern of how MaxPreps would rank schools in the 32-team brackets, many more schools than expected voted now. However, majority ruled with a 193-140 vote.

"It's not the outcome I wanted," said Agawam High School Athletic Director David Stratton. "But now we move forward."

Stratton attended the meeting along with his building principal, Thomas Schnepf. Each member school, about 380 in the state, had the ability to vote. There were 333 votes cast in the decision.

With the vote passing, the MIAA will begin preparations to hold statewide tournaments in the fall of 2021, starting with soccer, football, field hockey, and girls volleyball. Sectional tournaments will be held during the 2020-2021 season.

However, based on how the meeting went, the Tournament Management Committee, which created the proposal, will continue considering how to make the MaxPreps formula work. The formula was not shared with the membership, citing it being a proprietary formula. The MIAA membership did not have a vote in the implementation of MaxPreps. For Western Mass and some Central Mass. tournaments, MaxPreps will replace the Walker system, which was used due to the diversity of the Western Mass. region and so many teams playing in leagues with teams in multiple divisions.

During the course of the next year, the MIAA will expand many

TOURNEY | page 12



Sports

T-Birds set for big homestand after OT win over Syracuse

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (30-24-2-0) clawed back from a 2-0 deficit to stun the Syracuse Crunch (26-22-4-5) by a final score of 3-2 in overtime on Sunday at the MassMutual Center.

After Springfield came up empty on two early power play chances in the opening six minutes, Philippe Desrosiers was a busy netminder for Springfield in the first period, as Syracuse got shots on the T-Birds goalie from all angles, with 18 of them to show for in the first 20 minutes of the game.

Unfortunately, Desrosiers' 18th save attempt was the one that came up empty with just 2.2 seconds on the clock, as Daniel Walcott stole a puck from a T-Bird along the left-wing wall before hitting defense-

man Cal Foote in the high slot. With time ticking down, Foote hit the back of the net on the blocker side of Desrosiers to give Syracuse a 1-0 lead after the first.

Defenses tightened in the opening ten minutes of the seconds, as the teams jockeyed for offensive chances. The Crunch then got their first power play of the night at 10:21, and at 12:01, a fortuitous bounce off a T-Birds skate came right to Taylor Raddysh at the left circle. With plenty of room to load up a slap shot, Raddysh blasted the puck through Desrosiers on the glove side to add to the Crunch lead, 2-0.

In need of a spirit-lifter, the Thunderbirds received just that from Ethan Prow, who extended his personal point streak to

five games at 17:25, as he wristed a puck from center point position past the blocker side of Syracuse goalie Spencer Martin, who had stopped 19 of 20 through 40 minutes. Rodrigo Abols picked up the lone helper, as he won the face-off that immediately preceded Prow's eighth goal of the year.

Down a goal heading into the third, the Thunderbirds pushed the issue in the Syracuse zone, and Mason Marchment drew a power play as he was taken down at the side of the net. At 11:39 of the third, Henrik Borgstrom tied the score as he roofed a short-side wrist shot from the right circle thanks to a Jack Rodewald screen in front of the net. Prow picked up his second point

of the night with the primary assist.

With the 2-2 score in tow, both teams failed to come up with a power play marker and the score carried into the overtime period. After Desrosiers denied an Alex Volkov shot past the two-minute mark of the period, Brady Keeper charged up the left-wing side, beat a defender to the near post, and chipped a forehand over the glove of Martin to win it for Springfield at 2:17 of the overtime. Desrosiers picked up the assist on the game-winning tally, Keeper's second overtime marker of the season.

Six of Springfield's next seven games will remain inside the MassMutual Center, beginning with a tangle on Friday, Feb. 28 against Bridgeport at 7:05 p.m.

**TOURNEY ■ from page 11**

of its sports to five divisions statewide. With the exception of football, most mainstream sports like soccer, basketball, baseball, and softball, have four divisions. The idea of expanding to five divisions will allow more teams to make a 32-team field as well as hopefully level the competition.

During the meeting, a brief presentation of the statewide tournament was given. Athletic directors and administrators in attendance were then given an opportunity to speak or ask questions.

Many concerns were raised over the amount of travel that could take place. The extreme example utilized was a team having to go from Lee (far Western Mass.) to Nantucket (far Eastern Mass.).

Joe Gamache, representing Franklin Technical High School, said it would also be hard for parents to support their chil-

dren with trips across the state like that.

His point was countered by Shaun Hart from Burlington, a member of the TMC.

"In order for this tournament to be as bad as people want to make it out to be you have to hit the lottery of playoff magic to hit the farthest ride people have mentioned," said Hart.

Alison Jordan-Ganger and William Metzger spoke from Western Mass. spoke.

Jordan-Ganger, vice principal and athletic director at Granby High School, said student representatives should have been more involved.

"They should have been here to speak their mind," she said. "We missed the boat on this one."

Metzger, principal of Monson High School, questioned how the state would approach splitting of fans if two teams had to play at far-away locations on the same day.

He was told the conflicts could be avoided with certain scheduling.

**BASKETBALL ■ from page 11**

West Springfield one time while losing to the Terriers by just four points in their second meeting.

Once again this season, offense was not as big a problem for the Brownies as defense was.

Agawam was putting up 50 or more points in most games, but struggled in allowing 60 to 70 points in most of their losses. In just four games this season, Agawam failed to get above 40 points.

The Brownies will graduate five seniors, but will return players that saw significant time on the floor this season, including Bass-Collins, Griffin Levesque, Dylan Wesley, and Jermaine Norfleet.

Among the graduates this year, Moccio has been a mainstay in Agawam's line-up for nearly his entire four years of high school. He was also named to the Senior All-Star Game, which will be played at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield later this month.



Matt Hotaling fakes as he reacts to a quick pass. PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Dylan Wesley circles the perimeter looking for an opening.

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57										58				
59						60				61				

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Yields Manila hemp
- 6. A type of gin
- 10. Japanese ankle sock
- 14. Swiss city
- 15. Applied to
- 17. Achievements
- 19. Japanese title
- 20. Possesses
- 21. Belgian city
- 22. Child
- 23. Great delight
- 24. Petty quarrel
- 26. Gathered
- 29. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- 31. Path
- 32. Legendary hoops coach Riley
- 34. A citizen of Denmark
- 35. Flat
- 37. Upper-class young women
- 38. Payment (abbr.)
- 39. Distort
- 40. Affirmative! (slang)

- 41. One who has a child
- 43. Without
- 45. Workplace safety agency
- 46. Political action committee
- 47. Period of plant and animal life
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 53. State of being kept secret
- 57. Hobbies
- 58. One-time Korean ruler
- 59. Sudden attack
- 60. Born of
- 61. Assists

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Ancient Greek
- 2. Famed composer
- 3. Spore-bearing fungi cells
- 4. Chief executive officer

- 5. Defunct Syrian political party
- 6. Thin wood
- 7. Polynesian garlands
- 8. Fluid replacement (abbr.)
- 9. Flammable hydrocarbon gas
- 10. Multi-leveled
- 11. Influential diarist
- 12. Gambles
- 13. Many subconsciousnesses
- 16. Current unit
- 18. Illumination unit
- 22. Tantalum
- 23. Steps leading down to a river
- 24. Kids love him
- 25. Before
- 27. Fencing swords
- 28. Mountain range in China
- 29. Payroll company
- 30. A way to pack together
- 31. Business designation

- 33. Thyroid-stimulating hormone (abbr.)
- 35. Forage fish
- 36. Greek temple pillars
- 37. Internet mgmt. company
- 39. Rouse oneself
- 42. In a way, covered
- 43. Elaborate silk garment
- 44. Cooling unit
- 46. Riley and O'Brien are two
- 47. \_\_\_ fide: genuine
- 48. Ancient Incan sun god
- 49. Poker stake
- 50. Trigonometric function
- 51. Interesting tidbit
- 52. Adieus
- 53. U.S. Treasury position
- 54. Midway between east and southeast
- 55. Doctors' group
- 56. Women's \_\_\_ movement

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# Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD20P0129GD**  
**In the matter of:**  
**Charles E Ryans**  
**Of: Feeding Hills, MA**  
**RESPONDENT**  
**Alleged Incapacitated Person**  
**CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Dept of Developmental Service** of Springfield, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Charles E Ryans** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Terrence Blanchard** of Greenfield, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond.

The petition asks the Court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **03/19/2020**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds or your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: February 28, 2020  
**Suzanne T. Seguin**  
Register of Probate  
3/05/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Division  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-8600  
Docket No. HD19P1914EA**  
**Estate of:**  
**John Andrew Cleveland**  
**Date of Death:**  
**April 26, 2019**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Jean Cleveland** of Springfield,

MA.  
**Jean Cleveland** of Springfield, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
3/05/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Division  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-8600  
Docket No. HD20P0214EA**  
**Estate of:**  
**Matthew Michael Ellis**  
**Also Known As:**  
**Matthew M. Ellis**  
**Date of Death:**  
**9/24/2019**

**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**  
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Rebecca Ellis** of Agawam, MA.

**Rebecca Ellis** of Agawam, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
3/05/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD19P1277PM**  
**In the interests of:**  
**Donald Field**  
**Of: Agawam, MA**  
**RESPONDENT**  
**Incapacitated Person/Protected Person**  
**CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION**

**TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A CONSERVATOR**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Eileen Sullivan-Boss** of West Springfield, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:

Expand the powers of a Conservator of the Respondent.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 AM on the return date of **03/19/2020**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: February 19, 2020  
**Suzanne T. Seguin**  
Register of Probate  
3/05/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103**

**Docket No. HD20P0308GD**  
**In the matter of:**  
**Matthew J McDonald**  
**Of: Feeding Hills, MA**  
**RESPONDENT**  
**Alleged Incapacitated Person**  
**CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by

**Laura McDonald** of Feeding Hills, MA

**Joseph McDonald** of Feeding Hills, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Matthew J McDonald** is in

need of a Guardian and requesting that **Joseph McDonald** of Feeding Hills, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **03/24/2020**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial

affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: February 25, 2020  
**Suzanne T. Seguin**  
Register of Probate  
3/05/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD20P0370EA**  
**Estate of:**  
**Bernard S Novotney**  
**Date of Death: 01/10/2020**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Susan L Alvanos** of Feeding Hills, MA and **David B Novotney** of East Otis, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Susan L Alvanos** of Feeding Hills, MA and **David B Novotney** of East Otis, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of **03/24/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written

appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: February 25, 2020  
**Suzanne T. Seguin**  
Register of Probate  
3/05/2020

**AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA on **Monday, March 23, 2020 at 7PM** for all parties interested in the request of **Lutvija Katica**, who is seeking a special permit in accordance with Chapter 180, Section 7 of the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, to allow for the construction of a residential dwelling on a legally non-conforming lot located at the premises identified as 27 Liberty Street.

**Doreen A. Prouty**  
Chairperson  
Agawam  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
2/27, 3/05/2020

MORE PUBLIC NOTICES | page 14



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*Monday – Friday 7:30 – 5PM*  
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# Obituary



## Kurt E. Showalter, 85



CHESTER — Kurt E. Showalter, 85, born on March 11, 1934, beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, passed away unexpectedly on Feb. 28, with his family at his side at home.

Showalter was born in Bronx, N.Y., and graduated from DeWitt Clinton High School in the Bronx.

He leaves his wife of 54 wonderful years, Marilyn J. Showalter. He also leaves three children, daughter Elaine Jacquier and her husband Phil, son Karl Showalter and his wife Kristy, daughter Kristine Mitchell and her significant other

Andy Delnickas; all of his grandchildren, Amy Sadowski, Brandon Mitchell and his significant other Nicole Fecteau, William Defocie, Stone Mitchell, Arya-Jane Mitchell, Alyxa-Ray Showalter, Abagayle Showalter; and his great-grandchildren Bently Mitchell, Payton Mitchell and Claire Sadowski.

He served in the Army as a private in the mechanics division with an honorable discharge in January 1963. After attending mechanics school, he opened up an Esso gas station and there he met his wife Marilyn. They were married and built a home where they raised their three children in Westbrook, Conn.

After retiring from driving tractor-trailers through the entire United States, always sending his family postcards from his location, Show-

alter and his wife decided to move out to the country and buy a farm which they named Angel Mist Farm.

Showalter loved his trains, toys and collectibles, enjoyed watching Barret Jackson, Mecum car auctions, "M\*A\*S\*H," and his game shows. He loved being a Patriot fan, and a big fan of the New York Yankees. He also loved gardening, and taking care of his indoor house plants. His family will always remember his joke-telling humor. Showalter will be truly missed and loved forever by his entire family and friends. Services are 1-3 p.m. Saturday, March 7, at Firtion Adams, 76 Broad St., Westfield. Burial will be private. [www.firtionadams.com](http://www.firtionadams.com)

Agawam Advertiser News

## OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

# Public Notices

## AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 6:00 PM at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Atkin for property located at 167 Lancaster Drive.

By Order of  
**Henry A. Kozloski,**  
Chairman  
Agawam Conservation  
Commission

3/05/2020

## AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA on **Monday, March 23, 2020 at 6:30 PM** for all parties interested in the request of Muradbek Usmonov, who is seeking a special permit in accordance with Chapter 180, Section 55B (30) of the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, to allow for the parking of multiple car carriers at the premises identified as 270 Main Street.

**Doreen A. Prouty**  
Chairperson  
Agawam  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
2/27, 3/05/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD20P0356PM**  
**In the matter of:  
June M Preissler  
Of: Agawam, MA  
RESPONDENT  
(Person to be Protected/  
Minor)**

**CITATION GIVING  
NOTICE OF PETITION  
FOR APPOINTMENT  
OF CONSERVATOR OR  
OTHER PROTECTIVE  
ORDER PURSUANT TO  
G.L. c. 190B,  
§5-304 & 5-405**

To the named Respondent and all other interested per-

sons, a petition has been filed by Lisa M Trimboli of Springfield, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **June M Preissler** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **With Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **03/24/2020**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: February 24, 2020  
**Suzanne T. Seguin**  
Register of Probate  
3/05/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Division  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-8600  
Docket No. HD20P0352EA  
Estate of:**

## Christine M Smith Date of Death: January 15, 2020 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Thomas R Smith** of Virginia Beach, VA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**Thomas R Smith** of Virginia Beach, VA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
3/05/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Division  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-8600  
Docket No. HD20P0296EA  
Estate of:  
LOIS F SMUS  
Date of Death:  
11/16/2019**

**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**  
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **KRISTEN S CASTONGUAY** of Feeding Hills, MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate.  
**K R I S T E N S CASTONGUAY** of Feeding Hills, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
3/05/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD15P1068GD**  
**In the matter of:  
Charles E Ryans  
Of: Feeding Hills, MA  
RESPONDENT  
Incapacitated Person/  
Protected Person  
CITATION GIVING  
NOTICE OF PETITION  
FOR TERMINATION  
OF A GUARDIAN OF  
AN INCAPACITATED  
PERSON**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by: **Dept of Developmental Services** of Springfield, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Terminate the Guardianship of the Respondent

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a writ-

ten appearance at this court on or before 10:00 AM. on the return date of **03/19/2020**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

## THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS TOWN OF AGAWAM OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR OF TAXES NOTICE OF TAX TAKING TO THE OWNERS OF THE HERINAFTER DESCRIBED LAND AND TO ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT on **Friday, March 20, 2020 at 10:00 o'clock A.M.**, at the Tax Collector's Office, Agawam City Hall, pursuant to the provisions of the general Laws, Chapter 60, Section 53, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes, IT IS MY INTENTION TO TAKE FOR THE City of Agawam the following parcels of land for non-payment of the taxes due thereon, with interest and all incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same shall have been paid before that date.

**To Avoid Tax Taking Please Call: 786-0400  
for information on total amounts due including interest and expenses  
Ext. 8218 Collector's Office  
Ext. 8712 Laurel Placzek, Collector-Treasurer  
Ext. 8710 AnnMarie Hartmann, Assistant Collector**

MOCCIO WILLIAM+,  
MOCCIO ANDREA,

LAND & BUILDING located at 339 SILVER ST in AGAWAM, containing 36.822 ACRES shown on Assessor's Map I08010011, recorded at HAMPDEN COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS - Book/Page 10967-425. Tax for FY-2019 \$15,520.28.

SARDELLA RICHARD M,  
SARDELLA ELIZABETH B,

LAND & BUILDING located at 59 CHESTNUT LN in AGAWAM, containing .514 ACRES shown on Assessor's Map L06050020, recorded at HAMPDEN COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS - Book/Page 5834-/228. Tax for FY-2019 \$3,480.45.

3/05/2020

WE'VE EXPANDED OUR WEB SITE  
**PUBLIC NOTICES**  
ARE NOW ONLINE

1 Email all notices to [publicnotices@turley.com](mailto:publicnotices@turley.com)  
2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.  
3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

VISIT  
[www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.





## The MacDuffie School Summer Kids Camp Registration Now Open

The MacDuffie School offers a coed, full day summer program for students entering grades 1-8. The program is offered in six, one-week sessions starting July 6th and is held on The MacDuffie School campus in Granby, MA.

Participants spend the morning engaged in a program area of their choosing, enjoy a lunch by Sage Dining Services, and then stay active with a variety of afternoon activities and field trips throughout the week. Our program leaders are passionate and experienced, and we all

look forward to creating a fun and supportive environment for your child to thrive this summer!

To register, visit <https://summer.macduffie.org/>

The MacDuffie School is a rigorous college preparatory school whose mission is: To foster in all students the intellectual habits of mind, high ethical standards, and respect for diversity required for becoming effective individuals in their personal and work lives and moral and responsible participants in the world beyond.



## Fun in Belchertown

Belchertown Kidz Club is partnering with community and families to build our children's futures. Creative hands on approaches and personalized support help shape the development of all of our unique learners from Preschool through 6th grade. Come grow, learn, and play with us!

**CARING FOR BTOWN'S KIDZ FOR 25 YEARS!**

### Belchertown Kidz Club

## SUMMER KAMP

**FOR AGES 5-12 YEARS**  
**10 Themed Weeks!**

STEM • ART • COOKING • SPORTS  
SWIMMING • FIELD TRIPS • DAILY CURRICULUM  
INDOOR/OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES & MORE!

**JUNE 22nd - AUG 25th\***  
**Mon - Fri / 7:00 am - 6:00 pm**  
\*We follow the Belchertown school schedule.  
Extended camp available for students entering kindergarten in the fall!

**Enrolling for ALL Summer and Fall Programs**  
(Pre-K & School Age - Before/After School)

**at our OPEN HOUSE • Sat., March 28th, 10am-2pm**

**FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE**  
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**4 Stadler Street • (413) 323-5439**  
**belchertownkidzclub@gmail.com**

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**We walk to the Free Summer Lunch Program at CHCS!**

**Co-ed • Grades 1-8**  
**July 6 - August 14**

**Race into summer at Camp MacDuffie!**

Space is limited so don't wait!

Be part of this year's camps and discover the true meaning of summer...having fun and making friends!

**Camp MacDuffie offers six weeks of exciting camp experiences:**

Week 1: July 6 - 10	Week 4: July 27 - 31
Week 2: July 13 - 17	Week 5: August 3 - 7
Week 3: July 20 - 24	Week 6: August 10 - 14

**Camp programs include:**  
Arts • Athletics • Coding • Creative Writing • Dance • Theater • Science

Monday-Friday 9am-3pm • Area field trips and lunch included  
Additional morning and afternoon hours available

**Register now for summertime fun at [summer.macduffie.org](https://summer.macduffie.org)**

The MacDuffie School • 66 School Street • Granby, MA 01033

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The Arbors Camp is gearing up for another season in the sun. From exploring nature and science to playing sports and games and creating art and music, The Arbors Camp gives kids amazing opportunities to learn, play and create. Summer camp is an unforgettable experience that is the beginning of many lifelong friendships. Start getting excited now.

The Arbors Camps in Chicopee and East Longmeadow are open to kids ages 5-12. Visit [arborskids.com](http://arborskids.com) for more information.

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**[www.holyokepediatrics.com](http://www.holyokepediatrics.com)**





# Summer at Stoneleigh-Burnham School Now Offers Day Camps in Dance and Animation

GREENFIELD, MA. Stoneleigh-Burnham School (SBS), an independent day and boarding school in Greenfield, Massachusetts, is pleased to announce day camps for their summer programs in Dance and Animation. These new

options are in addition to the boarding summer experiences that Stoneleigh-Burnham has been offering for many years. SBS's signature summer programs are hosted by expert faculty on their beautiful 100-acre campus in Greenfield. The programs are designed for girls ages 8-18 and emphasize the development of confidence, the acquisition of skills, and the discovery of new talents.

The week-long Animation Intensive Camp occurs July 5-10 and is designed for female artists in middle and high school who are interested in 2D and 3D animation. Campers have the opportunity to work with professional artists and animators as well as develop a short film of their own design.

There are two options for the week-long Dance Intensive: July 19-25 and July 26-August 1. Designed for intermediate and advanced dancers in middle and high school, this course provides girls with the opportunity to train with professional instructors and study ballet, jazz, yoga, hip hop, and more.

Also being offered this summer is the premier Bonnie Castle Riding Camp which has been instructing girls ages 8-16 in Hunters, Jumpers, Equitation, Dressage, Combined Training, and Equine Studies for over 30 years. There are

two options for this all levels, boarding-only program: July 5-18 and July 19-August 1.

According to Director of Admissions Kristen Mariotti, "We are very excited to offer these summer day camp programs as part of our initiative to make a Stoneleigh-Burnham experience more accessible to local families."

Summer Program Coordinator Liz Vollinger added, "With both boarding and day options, Summer at Stoneleigh-Burnham is a great way to introduce girls to all that SBS has to offer."

To learn more or to register, please visit [sbschool.org/summer](http://sbschool.org/summer) or contact Summer Program Coordinator Liz Vollinger at [lvollinger@sbschool.org](mailto:lvollinger@sbschool.org) or by calling 413-774-2711 x272.

Now celebrating its 150th anniversary, Stoneleigh-Burnham School has been preparing girls grades 7-12 & PG for college and the world. Stoneleigh-Burnham is an academic community with an international perspective that inspires girls to pursue meaningful lives based on honor, respect, and intellectual curiosity. Each student is challenged to discover her best self and graduate with the confidence to think independently and act ethically, secure in the knowledge that her voice will be heard.

**CAPEN HILL NATURE SANCTUARY SCIENCE and NATURE PROGRAM**  
LOCATED AT 56 CAPEN ROAD, CHARLTON, MA  
4 ONE WEEK SESSIONS STARTING July 13th / AGES 5-12

Now Offering

**TEEN STEM CAMP**  
For Ages 13-15

Four Themed Weeks Starting July 13th **\$165** per week

VISIT [WWW.CAPENHILL.ORG](http://WWW.CAPENHILL.ORG). SAVE TIME and REGISTER ON LINE!  
**GET BACK TO NATURE**

Capen Hill is an 86-acre sanctuary with trails open from dawn until dusk, and a visitor center that houses a library, mineral collection, animal residents, and a gift shop. Dedicated to Preservation and Environmental Education



SUMMER

FUN FOR

KIDS AND

TEENS!

Space is limited.  
Register today!

visit [hcc.edu/summer](http://hcc.edu/summer)  
to learn more

**PROGRAMS INCLUDE:**  
Drone adventures  
Video Game Design  
Cooking & Baking  
Wilderness Survival  
Basketball/Soccer/Fencing

**6/29 – 7/31**

summer  
@HCC

HOLYOKE  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE

**UMASS**  
REYNOLDS BASEBALL CLINICS

Operated by Head Coach  
Matt Reynolds

Youth Day Clinic: Aug 25-26  
High School Clinic: Aug 30

Website: <http://collegebaseballcamps.com/minuteman/>



AIC

AMERICAN  
INTERNATIONAL  
COLLEGE

## Yellow Jackets Summer Camps

- Girls Basketball June 29th – July 3rd
- Soccer June 29th – July 3rd
- Boys Basketball July 13th – July 16th
- Baseball July 20th – July 23rd
- Softball July 27th – July 30th

Camp information and registration  
can be found at the following address:

**[www.aicyellowjacketcamps.com](http://www.aicyellowjacketcamps.com)**

You can schedule an appointment with me, Nicki Callini, online anytime!

1. Log in to [aic.edu/connect](http://aic.edu/connect)
2. Search for my name in the search bar & select me
3. Select SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT & book your appointment





**SUMMER AT STONELEIGH-BURNHAM**

Overnight and day camps on 100-acre campus for girls ages 8-18 focused on riding, dance and animation.

To register and learn more, visit [sbschool.org/summer](http://sbschool.org/summer)

**STONELEIGH-BURNHAM SUMMER PROGRAMS**

**Greenfield, MA**

**Greene Acres Equestrian Center L.L.C.**

**SUMMER CAMPS**

July 6 - July 10  
July 27 - July 31  
August 17 - August 21  
9am - 3pm (lunch not provided)

Basic Horse Care, Daily Riding, English & Western, Ages 5 & up

Call to Register (413) 813-9291  
53 Ware Road, Belchertown  
Email: [Amanda.greeneacres@gmail.com](mailto:Amanda.greeneacres@gmail.com)

**Polish Alliance Youth Camp, Inc.**

**CAMP STANICA**

22 Paul St., Bondsville, Massachusetts

*A non-profit overnight co-ed camp for ages 6-15*

**POLANKA**

Session 1: July 12-18, 2020  
Session 2: July 19-25, 2020

Call for info: 413-592-0227 email: [campstanicapna@yahoo.com](mailto:campstanicapna@yahoo.com)

[www.campstanica.com](http://www.campstanica.com)

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Cloverbud Day Camp Ages 4-6 • Leadership Programs  
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*Join us for a fun, hands-on outdoor summer experience!  
Make friends & memories that last a lifetime!*

*Financial Aid Available! Visit us online for Rates, Dates & Registration*  
[www.CampMarshall.net](http://www.CampMarshall.net) • 508-885-4891 • 92 McCormick Road, Spencer, MA 01562

**HAMPSHIRE GYMNASTICS**

**SUMMER MORNING PROGRAM**

Fun for Girls & Boys 4-10 years old  
Monday-Friday 9 am - 1 pm (early drop off available)  
NOW OFFERING 1 week sessions starting July 6th

Drop your kids off for a morning of non-stop fun! Our program includes gymnastics instruction, games, outside activities, arts and crafts, and slip-n-slide! They will love our trampolines, air pit, balance beams, rings and rock wall! Price \$200 week. Call our office or go online for more information.

**HAMPSHIRE GYMNASTICS**

461 West Street Amherst, MA 01002  
(413) 256-6990  
[www.hampshiregymnastics.com](http://www.hampshiregymnastics.com)

**Adventures Await You This Summer at Bement!**

A Traditional Day Camp Experience for Boys and Girls ages 4 to 15 years  
*From Bement's beautiful campus in Historic Deerfield*

**Bement Adventure Camp**

Session 1: July 6 - July 17 • Session 2: July 20 - July 31  
Digging into Nature at Pine Hill  
Week 1: June 15-19 • Week 2: June 22-26  
Week 3: August 3-7

Please visit our website for more information & to register  
[www.bement.org/summer](http://www.bement.org/summer)  
Questions? 413.774.7061

**PLUS:**  
New Robotics Program (grades 5-8)

Belchertown Day School presents

**BELCHERTOWN SUMMER FUN**

*Children are our top priority!*

**ENROLL NOW**

**NEW, LOWER PRICING!**  
As low as \$29/day.

School Age Summer Program for children who have completed K-6th grade.

**Full Day Camp Includes:**  
Swimming, Field Trips, Sports, Nature Exploration, Arts & Crafts, Weekly Themes.

**Flexible Scheduling Available**

For more information, visit  
[www.belchertowndayschool.org](http://www.belchertowndayschool.org)  
(413) 323-8108 and/or email [Heidi@belchertowndayschool.org](mailto:Heidi@belchertowndayschool.org)

**SUMMER CAMP**

**LUDLOW COMMUNITY CENTER RANDALL BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**

91 Claudia's Way Ludlow, MA 01056  
413-583-2072

**Camp Hours: 6:30 am - 5:30PM**

**June 22<sup>nd</sup> - August 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Weekly Field Trips**

**For more information, visit:**  
[www.ludlowbgc.org](http://www.ludlowbgc.org)

**See how curious children become eager students.**

**The Gorse Children's Center is Now Enrolling!**

- Infant • Toddler • Preschool
- Pre-Kindergarten
- Before & After-School Program (K-3rd)

Summer Explorations:  
Fabulous Field Trips,  
Outrageous Outdoor Activities,  
Science Rocks, Art Smart,  
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- Full & part-day programs
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**The Gorse Children's Center at Mount Holyoke College**  
27 Morgan Street, South Hadley, MA  
**413-538-3351**  
[gorse@brighthorizons.com](mailto:gorse@brighthorizons.com)  
[www.brighthorizons.com/gorse](http://www.brighthorizons.com/gorse)

**Gorse Open House**  
**Wed., April 8**  
**3:30-5:30pm**

**Bright Horizons.**

**THE DOCTORS ARE IN...**

Visit our new Belchertown office just down the road from the previous location.

**Call to book your camp physicals today!**

**Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine**

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**Jonathan Rosenstein, M.D.**  
**Rebecca Gurney, C.N.P.**

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION**

Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>  
9:00am - 2:00pm

Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> & Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>  
6:00pm - 7:30pm

\$160 per week/per child - Ludlow Resident  
\$170 per week/per child - Non-resident

**No Appointment Necessary/No Additional Discounts**

**Must pay in Full or Use Auto Debit**

**General Registration**

Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> 9:00-2:00PM  
Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:30PM  
Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:30PM

\$180 per week/per child: Ludlow Resident  
\$190 per week/per child: Non-Resident

**\$50 registration fee will be waived with pay in full or auto debit option.**

Space is Limited  
Must bring a voided check or bank letter for auto debit  
\*Current immunizations due at the time of registration\*  
Questions? Contact: [ssantos@ludlowbgc.org](mailto:ssantos@ludlowbgc.org) or [kmartins@ludlowbgc.org](mailto:kmartins@ludlowbgc.org)



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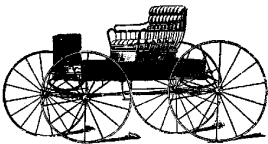
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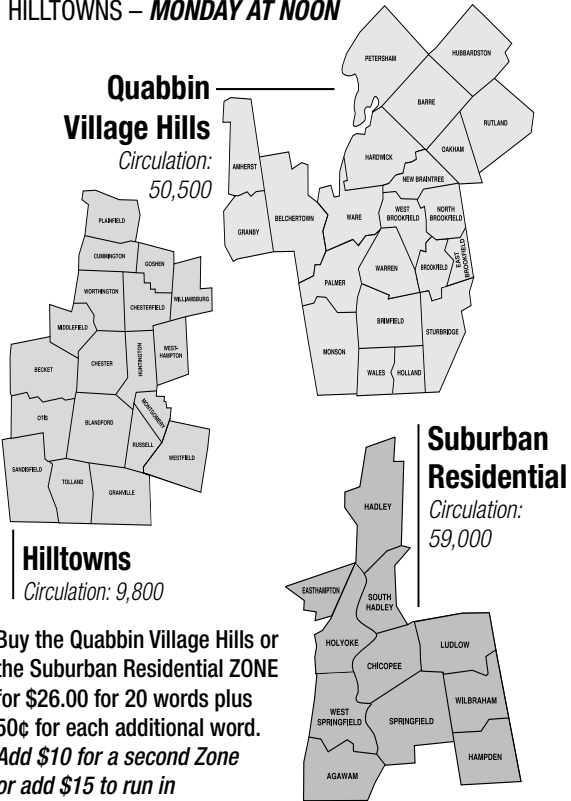
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**SUPERINTENDENT** ■  
**from page 1**

The process began last week when the position was posted internally as well as on a network that lists job openings for educators across the country. The closing dates for both postings in Friday, March 13. The first round of interviews is scheduled for Wednesday, April 1, in the Agawam Junior High School auditorium.

But before the committee sits down to conduct those interviews, it will seek input from the community and school staff about the qualities, skills and attributes they believe

are necessary to be an effective school superintendent in Agawam. There are several ways that residents and school staff can provide input to the committee as it searches for a new school leader.

The first is through a voluntary and anonymous survey. The survey will be posted at [www.agawamed.org](http://www.agawamed.org) by Monday, March 9. The survey will close at 4 p.m. the following Monday, March 16. Online feedback will also be taken at [agawamsuperintendentsearch@agawamed.org](mailto:agawamsuperintendentsearch@agawamed.org).

Following the online outreach, the School Committee will host two separate “listening sessions.”

The first is 3-4:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, and is for administrators, faculty, and staff in the district. The second session, 6-7 p.m. Monday, March 16, is for parents, students, and the community. Both sessions will be held in the AJHS auditorium at 1305 Springfield St., Feeding Hills.

According to School Business Manager Robert Clickstein, who is managing the various public inputs, the responses will be used to create a “leadership profile.” He said this will be used to help the School Committee review and select potential candidates to interview.

Sapelli, who was not in-

involved in the search process three years ago, now serves as School Committee chairman as the town’s mayor. He said the committee decided to add the listening sessions because they felt it gave people another option to provide feedback.

“Some people don’t go on computers and fill out surveys — they’re not comfortable with doing it,” he said. “People need to know that they have an opportunity to be heard. We as a committee feel that at the end of the day we’ve included the community and given them the option to express their wants and needs” for a new superintendent.

Sapelli added that it’s important for the committee to incorporate what people are saying into their decisionmaking. He said while the committee may not agree with all the comments, he hopes public feedback will reaffirm what they are looking in a successor to Lemanski.

“School Committee members are all residents and parents, so they’re basically looking for some of the same things as the public — someone who has good interpersonal skills, can communicate well, both orally and in writing, someone who is available and approachable, and has an education background, classroom teaching experience, and administrative experience,” he explained. “One of the other important things that we’re going to be looking for is someone who going to be here for a fairly long time — long term, if you will — six, eight, nine years.”

Sapelli retired in June 2017 following a 40-year education career in the district, including six years as superintendent.

The mayor said the School Committee itself will serve as the screening committee to narrow down the list of candidates to finalists to be interviewed.

The external job posting explains that candidates applying for the superintendent position must have a minimum of 10 years’ to-

tal experience as a teacher, principal, or central office administrator. Also, while they must have earned at least a master’s degree from an accredited institution of higher learning, a doctorate is preferred. A valid superintendent’s certification issued by the Massachusetts Department of Education is another requirement.

The salary range for the new superintendent is \$155,000 to \$165,000 annually. When Lemanski was hired in May 2017, his salary for the first year was \$155,000, but was negotiable for the second and third years. He currently receives a salary of \$161,262.

His contract also allowed Lemanski to accept fees for speaking, writing, lecturing, or “other engagements of a professional nature” that didn’t conflict with his work as superintendent.

Lemanski announced in early February that he would retire in June following a 35-year education career, the past three as superintendent. He had also been assistant principal and principal at Agawam High School before being hired as superintendent.

His successor is expected to be named at the start of the regular School Committee meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 26. This will give the new superintendent about a month to transition into the position for a July 1 start.

# OPEN HOUSE!

## Tuesday, March 10

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## Key dates

The School Committee has announced several meetings and deadlines in the search for a new school superintendent. All events, meetings and interviews are in Agawam Junior High School, 1305 Springfield St., Feeding Hills.

**March 9-16:** Survey available at [www.agawamed.org](http://www.agawamed.org) until 4 p.m. Monday, March 16.

**Tuesday, March 10:** Listening session for administrators, faculty and staff, 3-4:30 p.m.

**Monday, March 16:** Listening session for parents, students and community, 6-7 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 1:** First round of interviews, 6 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 7:** Community meet-and-greet of candidates, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**Week of May 4:** Finalist interviews, date and time to be determined.

**Tuesday, May 26:** New superintendent announced, 7 p.m.

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